Blake, James
Annals of the town of
Dorchester

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Collections of the Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society.

NUMBER TWO.

ANNALS OF THE TOWN OF DORCHESTER.

BY JAMES BLAKE.

1750.

BOSTON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY DAVID CLAPP, JR.
Over 184 Washington Street.
1846.

At a stated meeting of the Resident Members of the *Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society*, held, pursuant to Notification, at the residence of William D. Swan, in Dorchester, April 25, 1845: on motion, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote:—

Whereas a Manuscript bearing the title of the "Annals of the Town of Dorchester," by James Blake, has long been acknowledged as an authentic and faithful sketch of the ecclesiastical and civil history of this ancient town; and whereas the publication of said manuscript would be of essential service in the diffusion of a knowledge of early New England history; it is

Resolved, That a Committee of three be elected and empowered to collate the "Annals" with the Records of the Church and Town of Dorchester; and to make such annotations by way of Appendix or otherwise as shall render more useful and interesting the valuable MS. above mentioned.

Resolved, That the same Committee be authorized to take such order for the publication of said work, as, in their judgment, may be deemed expedient.

Voted, That Ebenezer Clapp, jr., James M. Robbins and Edward Holden constitute the Committee of Publication.

Attest,

EDWARD HOLDEN, *Librarian.*

Entered, According to Act of Congress, in the year 1845, by

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PREFACE.

A JUST appreciation of the expressions of interest and favor which marked the issue of the first Number of our Society's Collections, has prompted still further efforts on the part of the Association, for the diffusion of our historical treasures. There are yet, doubtless, many rare MSS. which record the history of the foundation and progress of our Colony, Province and Commonwealth; the more valuable of which, it is to be hoped, will, in due time, be subjected to the preserving and diffusing power of the press. In prosecuting this work, in the limited sphere which we have assigned to ourselves, we now present to our readers a volume which, though modest in its pretensions and local in its character, will, doubtless, be hailed with delight in numerous parts of New England.

The original manuscript, from which this publication is furnished, is still extant, and is in a good state of preservation. The esteem in which the work has long been held, has frequently prompted its transcription by those who

have been so fortunate as to gain access to the MS. It is gratifying to know, that *five* correct and complete copies are still preserved.

It may properly be remarked here, that the only title attached to the original work is that which forms the caption of the first page of the text; the usual title-page and running title being wholly omitted by the author. Aware, as we are, of the general desire, that the New England historical writings of the last century may be preserved in their integrity, the Committee have determined to give as correct a *copy* of the MS. as could well be made with type; and, as the result of that determination, the reader will notice a too frequent use of capitals, a sparing insertion of the points of punctuation; with an orthography that sometimes suffers by comparison with the modern standards of the English language. Nevertheless, we are confident that we shall never regret having allowed the testimony of our Annalist to remain unaltered.

Many of our readers will probably desire an introduction to the author before reading his Annals. To such we present him, as briefly as we may do in the following sketch.

James Blake was a son of James and Ruth; a grandson of James and Elizabeth; and a great grand-son of William and Agnes, who were among the first and most distinguished of the settlers of Dorchester. He was born

at Dorchester, April 30, 1688, O. S. He held many important stations in the service of the town;—was for many years Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and principal Selectman of Dorchester; in which offices he continued to serve with ability until rendered incapable of active duty by serious and long protracted disease, which finally resulted in his death. Mr. Blake was an ingenious mathematician and an accurate surveyor. He surveyed many farms in Dorchester and other towns; and once surveyed the whole town of Dorchester, when its territorial limits were much larger than at present; and his projections, skilfully and elegantly made, are among the most interesting deposits in the archives of his native town. For a more particular account of the public services of Mr. Blake, the reader is referred to his "Annals." This work is introduced by an exhibition of the motives and projects of the first settlers, and gives a minute account of the principal events and transactions here for a period of one hundred and twenty years, to the time of the author's death, which occurred on December 4, 1750, O. S. The entries which occur after this date are supposed to have been made by his son. This work was for many years the principal authority for all the early accounts, published, of the town of Dorchester.

For the purpose of rendering more complete several parts of the original MS., annotations have been made and

appended to the work, among which may be found copies of civil and ecclesiastical records of important acts, which are but briefly mentioned or merely alluded to by our author; together with a relation of historical facts upon points which are not subject to official record, but are substantiated by veritable history or unquestionable tradition.

In order that it may be still more valuable to the public, and especially to the numerous descendants of the first settlers of Dorchester, the publisher has been furnished with many of their autographs, from a page of the first book of Town Records, being the names of the male inhabitants of the town in the year 1641, which he presents to the reader as a lithographed Frontispiece. These names are appended to an instrument conveying to the town of Dorchester all rents and profits of Thompson's Island, for the support of a Free School.

We now suffer the "Annals" to "appear" before the public, with the hope that its reception may warrant a continuance of labors in this part of the work in which we are engaged.

DORCHESTER, SEPTEMBER, 1845.

ANNALS OF THE TOWN OF DORCHESTER.

When many most Godly and Religious People that Dissented from ye way of Worship then Established by Law in ye Realm of England, in ye Reign of King Charles ye first, being denied ye free exercise of Religion after ye manner they professed according to ye light of God's Word and their own consciences, did under ye Incouragement of a Charter Granted by ye S^{d} King, Charles, in ye Fourth Year of his Reign A.D. 1628, Remoue themselues & their Families into ye Colony of ye Massachusetts Bay in New-England, that they might Worship God according to ye light of their own Consciences, without any burthensome Impositions, which was ye very motive & cause of their coming; Then it was, that the First Inhabitants of Dorchester came ouer, & were ye first Company or Church Society that arriued here, next to ye Town of Salem who was one year before them.

In ye Year of our Lord 1629, Divers Godly Persons in Devonshire, Somersetshire, Dorcetshire & other places, Proposed a Remoue to New-England, among whom were two Famous Ministers, viz. Mr. John Maverick (who I suppose was somewhat advanced in Age) and Mr. John Warham (I suppose a Younger Man,) then a Preacher in ye City of Exon, or Exeter, in ye County of Devon. These good People met together at Plymouth, a Sea-port

Town in ye S^{d} County of Devon, in order to Ship themselues & Families for New-England; and because they designed to liue together after they should arriue here, they met together in the New Hospital in Plymouth and Associated into Church Fellowship, and Chose ye S^{d} Mr. Mauerick and Mr. Warham to be their Ministers and Officers, keeping ye Day as a Day of Solemn Fasting & Prayer, and ye S^{d} Ministers accepted of ye Call & Expressed ye same; the Revd. Mr. John White of Dorchester in Dorcet, (who was an active Instrument to promote ye Settlement of New England, and I think a means of procuring ye Charter) being present & Preaching ye fore part of ye Day, and in ye latter part of ye Day they performed ye work aforesaid.

This People being too many in Number to come in one Vessel, they hired one Capt. Squeb to bring them in a large Ship of 400 Tons; they set Sail from Plymouth ye 20th of March 1629–30, and arriued at Nantasket (now Hull) ye 30th of May 1630, having a Comfortable tho' long Passage, and having Preaching or Expounding of the Scripture every day of their Passage, performed by their Ministers. They had agreed with Capt. Squeb to bring them into Charles River, but he was false to his bargain & would not come any further than Nantasket, where he turned them and their Goods ashore on ye point, leaving them in a forlorn Wilderness destitute of any habitation & most other comforts of life. But it pleased God, they got a Boat of some that had staid in ye Country (I suppose for Trade, for there was some at Noddles Island & at Charlestown that staid in ye Country for Trade with ye Natiues before these adventurers came ouer, as likewise Moreton of Merry-Mount at Brantrey) and put their goods in ye Boat, and Instead of Sailing up to Charles River in a Ship were forced (as I suppose) to Row up in a Boat, it being about 3 Leagues to ye Mouth of ye River. They went up ye River until it grew narrow & Shallow, & then put ashore & built a hut to shelter their Goods, Intending there to set down, it being about ye place where Watertown now is. The Indians upon their arrival Mustered thick, they thought

about 300, but having with them an Old Planter as they called him, one that had stayed in the Country & could speak something of the Indian Language, (I suppose they took him from Charlestown that now is, for they called there & saw several Wigwams, & one English Man in an House where they ate boiled Bass, but had no Bread to eat with it) they sent him to ye Indians, who were persuaded to keep at a distance ye first night, and ye next morning when the Indians appeared, they offered no violence but sent some of their number holding out a Bass; our people sent a man with a Bisquet, & so they Exchanged, not only then but often afterwards, a bisquet for a Bass, and ye Indians were very friendly to them, which our people ascribed to God's watchful Providence ouer them in their weak beginnings; for all the Company were not gone up ye River, but about Ten men to seek out ye way for ye Rest. They were now landed upon ye Main Continent in a wild & unknown Wilderness, and they had brought Cattle with them which if they put them ashore there would likely wander & be lost & themselves likewise in seeking them. They had not stayed here at Watertown but a few days but ye Rest of their Company below had found out a neck of Land Joyning to a place called by ye Indians Mattapan, (now Dorchester) that was a fit place to turn their Cattle upon to prevent their straying; so they sent to their friends to come away from Watertown, and they settled at Mattapan, & turned their Cattle upon ye S^{d} neck then called Mattapannock, now called Dorchester-Neck. They began their Settlement here at Mattapan ye beginning of June as I suppose, or thereabout, A. D. 1630, and changed ye name into Dorchester, calling it Dorchester Plantation. Why they called it Dorchester I never heard, but there was some of Dorcet Shire, & some of ye Town of Dorchester that settled here; and it is very likely it might be in Honour of ye aforesaid Revd. Mr. White of Dorchester. Our People were Settled here a Month or two before Governor Winthrop & ye Ships that came with him arriued at Charlestown, so that Dorchester Plantation was settled next to y^{e}

Town of Salem in ye Massachusetts-Colony, being before Charlestown or Boston: And ye Church of Dorchester ye oldest Church in ye Colony Except Salem; and I suppose ye only Church that came over in Church Fellowship, the other Churches being gathered here. The Indians here at Dorchester were also kind to our People.

The first Inhabitants of Dorchester came chiefly from ye S^d^ Countys of Devon, Dorcet & Somerset, and I think from some other places. They were a very Godly & Religious people; and many of them Persons of Note and figure, being dignified with ye Title of Master; which but few in those Days were. Their Ministers or Pastors were ye S^d^ Revd. Mr. John Maverick and ye Revd. Mr. John Warham; others of Note were Mr. Rossiter, Mr. Ludlow, Mr. Glover, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Terry, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gallope, Mr. Hull, Mr. Stoughton, Mr. Cogan, Mr. Hill, Capt. Southcott, Capt. Lovell, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Pinney, Mr. Richards, Mr. Way, Mr. Williams, Mr. Tilly & others. And among them came Capt. Roger Clap, a very worthy Religious Gentleman, who was then a young man, & to him we are beholden for ye knowledge of many of ye particulars before mentioned, he leaving them in writing among ye Instructions he left to his Children. It seems many of these people were Trading men, & at first designed Dorchester for a place of Trade, and accordingly built a Fort upon ye hill called Rock-hill, wherein were seueral Pieces of ordinance, near ye Waterside; but ye Channel being poor & landing difficult, and Boston and Charlestown Harber being far more commodious, they desisted from that design & many of them removed afterwards to Boston and other places, so that many families about in the Country had their first Rise from Dorchester, there not being here a large quantity of Land to settle upon, that I suppose ye Inhabitants are but little if any thing more numerous now, than they were 50 or 60 years ago; young people many of them moving out as they grow up.

These first Settlers of ye Town of Dorchester, took up every one his spot to set down upon, pretty thick together

at ye northerly end of ye Town next to ye aforesaid neck of Land, & on ye Easterly side next to ye Sea, leaving many Intervening Spots of Land between their Settlements.

1631—1632.

These years were spent in working themselues into Settlements, & Incorporating into a Body to carry on ye Publick Affairs of ye Plantation; in Granting many Parcels of Land & Meadow to I suppose every particular Person; but for ye House-lots where they first Set down we have no Records of them, they being taken up as aforesaid.

In these years great was ye Straits and Difficulties these People met with for want of Provision for themselues & Families; and as Capt. Clap expresseth it, "Oh ye Hunger "that many suffered, and saw no hope in an Eye of Reason "to be supplyed, only by Clams, & Muscles, and Fish; "and *Bread* was so very Scarce, that sometimes ye very "Crusts of my Fathers Table would have been very Sweet "unto me: And when I could have *Meal & Water & Salt*, "boiled together, it was so good, who could wish better. "And it was not accounted a strange thing in those Days, "to Drink water, and to eat *Samp* or *Homine* without "Butter or Milk. Indeed it would have been a strange "thing to see a piece of Roast Beef, Mutton or Veal; "tho' it was not long before there was Roast *Goat*." And yet this people were very contented under their outward wants so long as they could enjoy the worship of God without any molestation: they did not meditate a Return to England, but as ye S^d Capt. Clap saith, "I do not Re-"member that ever I did wish in my Heart that I had not "come into this Country, or wish myself back again to my "Fathers House; Yea I was so far from that, that I wished "& advised some of my Brethren to come hither also; "which accordingly one of my Brothers and those two that "married my two Sisters, sold their means and came hither.

"The Lord Jesus Christ was so plainly held out in y^e "Preaching of ye Gospel to poor lost Sinners, and ye Abso-"lute Necessity of y^e *New birth*, and Gods Spirit in those

"Days was pleased to Accompany ye word with such effi-
"cacy upon ye Hearts of many; that our Hearts were quite
"taken off from *Old England* & set upon *Heaven*. The
"Discourse not only of ye Aged, but of ye Youth also,
"was not, *How shall we go to England?* (though some
"few did not only so discourse but also went back again)
"but *How shall we go to Heaven? Haue I true Grace*
"*wrought in my Heart?* Haue I *Christ* or no? O how did
"Men and Women, young and old, Pray for *Grace*, beg
"for *Christ* in those Days; and it was not in vain: Many
"were converted, and others established in Believing; many
"joined unto ye Several Churches where they liued." I mention this to show what sort of people they were that came first into this Country, what their Spirit & Design was, what a fervent loue and zeal they had for God & his Instituted worship, how contented under their Straits and Difficulties, while they enjoyed ye Gospel & ye free Profession of their Religion.

1633.

This Year they had a Meetinghouse for ye Public worship of God, but we haue no Account when it was built. This Year this Plantation began ye Practice of Choosing men, that we now call Selectmen or Townsmen. They Chose 12 this year to order ye Affairs of ye Plantation, who were to have their Monthly Meetings, and their orders being Confirmed by ye Plantation were of full force and binding to ye Inhabitants. There were many orders made this year concerning Cattle and Fences &c., & Penalties annexed; besides many grants of Land. This year a fort was ordered to be built on ye Rock upon Rock-hill, & ye Charge to be paid by a Rate.

This Year ye Plantation Granted Mr. Israel Stoughton liberty to build a Mill upon Neponsit River, which I suppose was ye first Mill built in this Colony, and ye S^d River has been famous for Mills ever since.

1634.

This Year they Chose 10 Selectmen to order ye affairs of ye Plantation, namely Mr. Newbury, Mr. Stoughton, Mr. Woolcott, Mr. Duncan, Goodman Phelps, Mr. Hathorne, Mr. Williams, Go. Minot, Go. Gibbes & Mr. Smith; and gaue any Seven of them power to make orders to bind ye Inhabitants until Repealed by ye Inhabitants. This year they also appointed a Bayliff, namely Nicholas Upsall. There were also many grants of land this year.

1635.

This Year were 9 Selectmen Chosen, namely William Phelps, Nathl. Duncan, Mr. George Hull, Mr. Dimocke, William Gaylard, Mr. Roger Williams, George Minot, John Philips & Mr. Newbery. And Walter Filer, Bayliff. Before this year the orders of ye Plantation were Signed John Maverick, John Warham, William Rockwell & William Gaylord, or two of them; from this year and forward that method ceased. There were many Orders & Grants of Land this year.

This Year arriued here on Aug. 16th the Revd. Mr. Richard Mather, that was a long time after Pastor of this Church, and with him a great Number of Godly people that Settled here with him. There came with him 100 Passengers, & 23 Seamen, 23 Cows & Heifers, 3 Sucking Calues, & 8 Mares, & none Died by ye way, though they met with as terrible a Storm as was almost ever heard of.

1636.

This Year were Chosen 12 Selectmen, namely Mr. Stoughton, Mr. Glover, Henry Withington, Nathl. Duncan, Geo. Minot, Rich. Collicut, John Holman, Mr. Hill, Will. Gaylard, Christopher Gibson, John Pierce & Mr. Jones. And afterwards they ordered that 10 men should be Chosen, 7 of whom should make orders & bind ye Inhabitants, being first Published on a lecture Day & not being then disallowed by ye Plantation. Joseph Flood, Bayliff. There were many orders & Grants of Land this year. This

year made great alteration in ye Town of Dorchester, for Mr. Mather & ye Godly people that came with him from Lancashire wanting a place to settle in, some of ye People of Dorchester were willing to remoue & make room for them, & so Mr. Warham & about half ye Church remoued to Winsor in Connecticut Colony, and Mr. Mather & his people came & Joined with Mr. Maverick and that half of ye Church that were left, and from these people so united are ye greatest part of ye present Inhabitants descended. When these two Companies of people were thus united they made one Church, having ye S^d^ Revd. Mr. John Maverick, & ye S^d^ Revd. Mr. Richard Mather for their Pastors, and entered into ye following Covenant, viz.

"*Dorchester Church Covenant made ye 23d Day of ye 6 Month* 1636.

"We whose names are subscribed being called of God to Join ourselues together in Church Communion; from our Hearts acknowledgeing our own unworthiness of such a priviledge, or of ye least of Gods mercies; and likewise acknowledgeing our disability to keep Covenant with God, or to perform any Spiritual Duty which he calleth us unto, unless ye Lord Jesus do enable us thereunto by his Spirit dwelling in us; Do in ye Name of Christ Jesus our Lord, & in trust and Confidence of his free Grace assisting us, freely Covenant & Bind ourselues, Solemnly in ye presence of God himself, his Holy Angels, and all his Servants here present; That we will by his Grace Assisting, endeavour constantly to walk together as a Right Ordered Congregation of Christ, according to all ye Holy Rules of a Church Body rightly established, so far as we do already know it to be our duty, or shall further understand out of God's Holy Word: Promising first & aboue all to cleaue unto him as our Chief and only Good, and to our Lord Jesus Christ as our only Spiritual Husband & Lord, & our only High Priest & Prophet & King. And for ye furthering of us to keep this blessed communion with God & his Son Jesus Christ, & to grow up more fully herein; we do likewise

promise by his Grace assisting us, to endeavour ye Establishing amongst ourselues all his Holy Ordinances which he hath appointed for his Church here on Earth, and to obserue all & euery of them in such sort as shall be most agreeable to his Will, opposing to ye utmost of our power whatsoever is contrary thereunto, and bewailing from our Hearts our own neglect hereof in former times, and our poluting ourselues therein with any Sinfull Invention of men.

"And lastly, we do hereby Covenant & promise to further to our utmost power, the best Spiritual good of each other, & of all and every one that may become members of this Congregation, by mutual Instruction, Reprehension, Exhortation, Consolation & Spiritual watchfulness over one another for good. And to be subject in and for ye Lord to all ye Administrations & Censures of ye Congregation, so far as ye same shall be Guided according to ye Rules of Gods most holy word. Of the Integrity of our Hearts herein, we call God ye Searcher of all Hearts to Witness; Beseeching him so to bless us in this & all our Enterprises, as we shall sincerely endeavour by ye assistance of his Grace to obserue his Holy Covenant in all ye branches of it inviolable for ever; and where we shall fail, there to wait upon ye Lord Jesus for Pardon and acceptance & healing for his Name's sake.

"Richard Mather, Natha'l Duncan,
George Minot, Henry Withington,
Thomas Jones, John Pope."
John Kinsley,

This Year ye General Court made a Grant to Dorchester of ye old part of ye Township, as far as ye great Blewhill; and ye Town took a Deed of Kitchamakin Sachem of ye Massachusetts for ye same.

1637.

The 10 Selectmen were Mr. Glover, Nathl. Duncan,

Mr. Jones, Mr. Bates, Rich. Collicut, Mr. Holman, Edwd. Clap, Roger Clap, Wm. Sumner.

This year ye Gen. Court made a second Grant to ye Town home to Plymouth Line, called ye new Grant.

In some part of this Year the Town Chose 20 men to order ye affairs of ye Plantation; and very many orders were made for ye disposal of small pieces of Land & Marsh &c., and a List of those that were to haue Land in ye Division of ye Neck, & other Lands, consisting of about 104 Names.

1638.

Selectmen, Mr. Glover, Nathl. Duncan, Mr. Adderton, Mr. Jones, Ch. Gibson, Jos. Philips, Mr. Bates, Wm. Sumner, Nich. Upsall & John Capen.

Raters or Assessors, Mr. Bates, Roger Clap, Ch. Gibson, Barnabe Four, John Capen. And in ye latter part of ye year were Chosen 7 men to order ye affairs of ye Plantation, for ye Remainder of ye year, for sometimes they Chose twice a year. About this time the Neck & ye three Divisions of ye Cow walk was laid out.

1639.

This year Thomsons Island was appropriated for ye benefit of a School, but afterward ye Town were Sued out of ye Possession of S^d Island, & ye Gen. Court Granted 1000 acres of wild land in lieu of it.*

This year was an order for Mounting ye Great Guns at Mr. Hawkins's or Rock-hill.

There is no Account of ye Selectmen this Year, Except ye 7 men mentioned in ye latter end of ye last year were they, who were Mr. Glover, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Adderton, Mr. Jones, John Wiswell, John Pierce.

1640.

There is no Record of ye Selectmen this year, nor is there much business Recorded.

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* See Appendix, Note F.

1641.

Selectmen, Nathl. Duncan, Sargent Atherton, Mr. Clark, Rich. Collicut, John Holland, Roger Clap, John Pierce.

This year Aug. 9, Died Mr. Jonathan Burr, Assistant to Mr. Richard Mather.

1642.

Selectmen, Mr. John Glover, Bro. Breck, Ens. Holman, Bro. Bates, Bro. Gibson, Bro. Upshall, Thos. Clark. Bayliff, Geo. Procter.

This year it was ordered that every person that had any matter to offer to ye Town must first acquaint ye Selectmen with it, or else it was not to be debated on under a penalty; agreeable to ye present Law requiring all ye matter of ye meeting to be expressed in ye warrant.

From 38 to 42, Mr. Nathl. Duncan & Serj. Hum. Atherton were Treasurers.

1643.

This year there is no Record of ye Officers, nor (I think) of any other thing, there being Several Pages missing in that place.

1644.

Selectmen, Mr. Glover, Mr. Patten, Mr. Howard, Thos. Wiswell, Nathl. Duncan, Mr. Atherton, Mr. Jones.

This year there was Wardens appointed to take care of & manage ye affairs of ye School; they were to see that both ye Master & Schollar performed their Duty, & to Judge of & End any difference that might arise between Master & Schollar, or their Parents, according to Sundry Rules & Directions there set down. The first Wardens were Mr. Howard, Dea. Wiswell, & Mr. Atherton.

1645.

This year they agreed upon ye Building of a new Meeting-house, and Granted a Rate of £250; the Committee Mr. Glover, Nathl. Duncan, Mr. Atherton, Mr. Jones,

Dea. Wiswell, Dea. Clap & Mr. Howard; Raters, Edwd. Breck, Wm. Sumner, Thos. Wiswell, William Blake & Roger Clap.

Selectmen for this year were Humphrey Atherton, Roger Clap, John Wiswell, Thos. Jones, Hopestill Foster, Geo. Weeks & Wm. Blake. Bayliff, Serjant Sumner.

This year was Composed and Recorded an Instrument called the Directory, wherein were many good orders & Rules which ye Inhabitants bound themselves to observe, in their orderly managing their Town Meetings: Some of which were, that althings should be aforehand prepared by ye Selectmen, that all Votes of Importance should be first drawn in writing and have 2 or 3 distinct Readings, before ye Vote was called for. That every man should haue libertie to speak his mind meekly and without noise; that no man should speak when another was speaking; that all men would Countenance & Encourage all ye Town Officers in ye due Execution of their Offices, and not fault or Revile them for doing their Duty, &c. This Directory used to be Read at ye opening of ye Town Meetings afterwards, as ye Laws of Reformation are ordered to be Read now. This year was also an Order made, that at all Town Meetings the Selectmen were to appoint one of themselues to be Moderator, near Conformable to ye present Law of the Province. There were also this year & before & after, divers orders about Fences, Cattle, Swine, Marking of Cattle, &c., much like what ye Province Law now requireth: as also for manageing of Common Fields &c. which orders had penalties annexed, & men appointed to see them Executed, and ye fines destreined by ye Bayliff.

1646.

Selectmen, Mr. Glover, Mr. Jones, Edwd. Breck, John Wiswell, John Holland, Edward Clap & Wm. Clark.

1647.

Selectmen, John Wiswell, Thos. Jones, Wm. Blake, Wm. Clark, Joseph Farnworth, Wm. Sumner & Geo.

Weeks. Raters, Nicholas Clap, Richard Baker & John Capen. Bayliff, John Kinsley.

1648.

Selectmen, Capt. Atherton, John Wiswell, John Glover, Roger Clap, & Thos. Jones. Bayliff, John Smith. Raters, Geo. Weeks, Hopestill Foster, & John Kinsley.

1649.

This year there is no Record of ye Town Officers to be found.

1650.

Selectmen, Mr. John Glover, Lievt. Clap, Ens. Foster, Serjant Clark & John Smith. Bayliff, James Humfrey. Raters, Mr. Jones, John Capen, Richard Baker.

1651.

Selectmen, Capt. Atherton, Wm. Blake Senr., Mr. James Bates, Mr. Jones, & Mr. Howard. Raters, John Capen, Thos. Dickerman, Wm. Sumner Senr. Bayliff, Richard Hall.

This Year the Bridge built over Neponsit River by Henry Whites.

1652.

Selectmen, Capt. Humphrey Atherton, Wm. Sumner Senr., Robt. Howard, Thos. Jones & Ensign Foster. Bayliff, Bro. Gurnet. Raters, Serjant Capen, Thos. Wiswell, Serj. Clark. This year was a Collection in Dorchester, for ye maintenance of ye President, Fellows, & poor Schollars of Harvard Colledge. Robert Howard Chosen Clerk of ye Writs untill Dea. Wiswell's Return from England.

1653.

Selectmen, Capt. Humphrey Atherton, Richard Baker, Richard Leeds, Mr. Patten & Lievt. Clap. Bayliff, John Wales. Raters, Serj. Capen, John Minot & John Smith.

1654.

Selectmen, Lt. Roger Clap, Mr. Nathl. Patten, Dea. John Wiswell, Ens. Foster and Mr. Thos. Jones. Raters, Serj. Capen, John Minot, John Smith. Bayliff, Thos. Bird.

1655.

Selectmen, John Wiswell, Ens. Foster, Edwd. Breck, Nathl. Glover, & Nathl. Patten. Raters, John Smith, John Minot & Wm. Clark. Bayliff, Henry Garnsey.

1656.

Selectmen, Mr. Patten, Edwd. Breck, Ens. Foster, Mr. Jones, & Nathl. Glover. Raters, Serjt. Capen, Wm. Clark & Robt. Badcock. Bayliff, Thos. Lake. This year Wm. Blake Sen. was Chosen Recorder for ye Town, & Clerk of ye Writs for ye County of Suffolk ; he was to haue 20s. per year, & be Ratefree.

1657.

Selectmen, Lt. Clap, Ens. Foster, Mr. Jones, Mr. Patten & Edwd. Clap. Raters, Joseph Farnworth, Wm. Clark & Rich. Withington. Bayliff, Lawrence Smith. This Year there was also Two Constables Chosen, viz. John Capen & Wm. Trescott.

This Year ye Town at ye Request of ye Revd. Mr. John Eliot Granted Punkapuog Plantation for ye Indians, and appointed men to lay it out, not exceeding 6000 acres, and at ye same time 500 acres to Lt. Roger Clap, & 1000 acres to be laid out for ye School of Dorchester.

The Records of Births & Deaths that was before this Year is S^d^ to be accidentally burnt in Thomas Millet's house, and so are all lost, except a few Families that kept ye Account of their Childrens Births, entered them in ye next Book of ye Records of Births.

This Year there is Recorded 19 Births & 17 Deaths.

1658.

Selectmen, Majr. Atherton, Lt. Clap, Ens. Foster, Mr.

Jones & Mr. Patten. Raters, John Capen, Wm. Sumner, & Wm. Robinson. Bayliff, Clement Maxfield. Constables, James Blake & Hugh Batten.

This Year was an Order for all Persons to giue in Acct. of their Ratable Estate, & no person to Receiue into Town any Stranger without acquainting ye Selectmen.

Births 31. Deaths 9.

1659.

Selectmen, Majr. Atherton, Lt. Clap, Ens. Foster, Mr. Patten, & Mr. Jones. Raters, Edward Breck, John Capen & Wm. Sumner. Bayliff, Jacob Hewins. Constables, Wm. Robinson & Wm. Pond. Births 18. Deaths 7. Geo. Weeks & Jos. Farnworth died this year. This Year was given ye 400 Acres of Land to ye use of ye Ministry, & 500 Acres to ye Non-Commoners.

1660.

Selectmen, Majr. Atherton, Lt. Clap, Ens. Foster, Mr. Patten & Mr. Jones. Raters, Wm. Sumner, John Capen, & Wm. Robinson. Bayliff, Thos. Andrews Senr. Constables, none. Births 29. Deaths 6.

In 1660 ye 3¼ Divisions, and ye 6 Divisions Laid out about this time.

1661.

Selectmen, Lt. Clap, Ens. Foster, Mr. Patten, Mr. Jones, & Wm. Sumner. Raters, Richard Baker, Wm. Robinson & John Minot. Bayliff, Wm. Turner. Constables, Thos. Tolman & Enoch Wiswell. Births 19. Deaths 7.

This year Died ye Honble. Major General Humphrey Atherton: upon whose Tomb is written as follows.

Here lies our Captain, & Majr. of Suffolk was withall;
A Godly Majestrate was he, & Major Generall,
Two Troops of Horses with him here came, such worth his loue did craue;
Ten Companies of Foot also mourning march'd to his Graue.

Let all that Read be sure to keep ye Faith as he hath done.
With Christ he liues now Crown'd, his name was Humphrey Atherton.

He Died ye 16th of Sepr. 1661.

Note by ye Records it was ye 17th day.

He was killed by a fall from his Horse at ye S^o^ end of Boston as he was coming homewards (I think in ye Evening) his Horse either Running over, or starting at a Cow that lay down in ye way.

1662.

Selectmen, Capt. Clap, Lt. Foster, Wm. Sumner, Mr. Jones, & John Minot. Raters, Serjt. Hall, Serjt. James Blake, & Wm. Pond. Bayliff, John Blackman. Constables, Nicholas Clap, Mr. James Minot. Births 23. Deaths 5. This year Milton was set off from Dorchester a Township by themselues.*

1663.

Selectmen, Capt. Clap, Lt. Foster, Mr. Jones, Wm. Sumner, & John Minot. Raters, John Capen, Daniel Preston & Lawrence Smith. Bayliffs no more. Cons. Richard Baker, & James Humfrey. This year they Chose Commissioners which had power by Law to try & Issue Small Causes, much as Justices now. The Commissioners Chosen this Year were, Capt. Clap, Lt. Foster, and Wm. Sumner. Deputies, Capt. Clap & Lt. Foster. This year Wm. Sumner was Chosen Clerk of ye Training-band. And this year Capt. Clap was authorized to Join Persons in marriage, and from this time forward many Persons were married by him. This year there is but 5 Births Recorded. Deaths 5. This year Died Mr. William Blake, who had been Clerk of ye Writs for ye County of Suffolk, & Recorder for ye Town near 8 years. He was also Clerk of ye Training-band. He Died ye 25th of ye 8th mo. 1663, in ye 69th Year of his Age.

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* See Appendix, Note G.

1664.

Selectmen, Capt. Clap, Lt. Foster, Mr. Jones, Wm. Sumner, & Anthony Fisher Senr. Raters, John Capen, John Minot & Richard Hall. Deputies, Capt. Roger Clap & Lt. Hopestill Foster. Commissioners to end small Causes, Capt. Roger Clap, Lt. Hopestill Foster, & Wm. Sumner Senr. Constables, Clement Maxfield and Richard Leeds. Births 18. Deaths 8.

This year Died Deacon Edwd. Clap, on ye 8th 11th month. He was brother to Capt. Roger Clap.

1665.

Selectmen, Lt. Hopestill Foster, Anthony Fisher Senr., Thomas Jones, Wm. Sumner & John Minot. Raters, Ens. Capen, Rich. Hall & Wm. Pond. Commissioners, Capt. Clap, Lt. Foster, Wm. Sumner. Deputies, Capt. Clap, Lt. Foster. Constables, Stephen Minot, Thomas Trott. Births 29. Deaths 5. This year Died Lawrence Smith, often Selectman &c. The Summer of this year Capt. Davenport, Capt. of ye Castle, was killed with Lightning at ye Castle, which is within ye bounds of this Town; and in ye month of August Capt. Roger Clap was appointed by ye General Court to Supply his place.

1666.

Selectmen, Capt. Foster, Wm. Sumner, John Minot, Anthony Fisher, & Dea. Capen. Raters, Serjt. Hall, Serjt. Clap, Serjt. James Blake. Deputies, Lt. Foster, Wm. Sumner. Commissioners, Lt. Foster, Wm. Sumner, Anthony Fisher. Constables, Daniel Preston, Henry Garnsey. Births 13. Deaths 6. This year died Elder Henry Withington, aged 79.

This year was a Vote that there should be a Recorder yearly Chosen at ye same time with ye Selectmen, and Deacon John Capen was Chosen Recorder for this year.

1667.

Selectmen, John Minot, Wm. Sumner, Saml. Clap, John

Capen Senr. & Ensign Hall. Raters, James Blake, Will. Pond, & Timo. Mather. Deputies, Capt. Foster, Wm. Sumner. Commissioners, Capt. Foster, Wm. Sumner and John Minot. Const. Joseph Holmes & Saml. Robinson. Recorder, John Capen Senr. Births 26. Deaths 5. This year Thos. Bird Senr. died, aged 54 years; & Henry Way aged 84 years; & Mr. Thos. Jones, often Selectman, died aged 75 years.

1668.

Selectmen, Capt. Foster, Lt. Capen, John Minot, Ens. Hall & Serjt. Samuel Clap. Recorder, Lt. John Capen. Raters, Wm. Sumner, Serjt. James Blake, & Serjt. Wm. Pond. Deputies, Capt. Foster & Wm. Sumner. Commissioners, Capt. Foster, Wm. Sumner & John Minot. Constables, Timothy Mather and Jacob Hewins. Births 20. Deaths 5.

1669.

Selectmen, Capt. Foster, Serjt. Clap, Lt. Capen, Ens. Hall & James Blake. Raters, Mr. Timothy Mather, Stephen Minot & Daniel Preston. Recorder, Lt. Capen. Deputies, Capt. Foster & William Sumner. Comrs. Capt. Foster, Wm. Sumner, & John Minot. Constables, James White & Saml. Rigbee. Births 22. Deaths 6.

This year died ye Revd. Mr. Richard Mather, Teacher of this Church of Dorchester. Upon his Tomb is written as follows.

Dom: Sacer.

Richardus Hic Dormit Matherus.,
(Sed nec Totus, nec mora Diuturna)
Lætatus genuise Pares.
Incertum est utrum Doctioran melior.
Anima & Gloria non queunt Humari.

Divinely Rich & Learned Richard Mather;
Sons like him Prophets great, rejoyced this Father.
Short time his Sleeping dust here's covered down,
Not his ascended Spirit or Renown.

V. D. M. in Ang. 16 Ans. in Dorc.
N. A. 34 Ans., Ob. Apr. 22, 1669.
Æt. Sue 73.

1670.

Selectmen, Capt. Foster, Lt. Capen, Ens. Hall, Serjt. Clap, & Serjt. Blake. Recorder, John Capen Senr. Raters, Wm. Sumner, Wm. Pond & Daniel Preston. Deputies, Capt. Foster & Wm. Sumner. Commiss. Capt. Foster, Wm. Sumner & Lt. John Capen. Const. Thomas Davenport & Obediah Haws. Births 23. Deaths 4.

This year Squamaug Sachem of ye Massachusetts, Confirmed unto Dorchester, ye Purchase of ye New-Grant (so called) that was before had from Josias Chickkatabut, in 1666, and engaged for a more full and ample Deed in 1669, but was Slain in ye wars by ye Mawhauks before it was accomplished, which S^d^ Squamaug gaue an ample Deed of: He Ruling as Sachem during ye minority of Jeremy Chickkatabut, Son of ye S^d^ Josias Chickkatabut: and a Rate of £28 to pay for it, Levyed on ye Proprietors.

1671.

Selectmen, Mr. Stoughton, Capt. Foster, Lt. Capen, Ens. Hall, William Sumner. Recorder, John Capen. Raters, Serjt. Pond, Serjt. Jas. Blake, Serjt. Preston. Deputies, Capt. Clap, Lt. John Capen. Commissioners, Capt. Foster, Lievt. Capen, Wm. Sumner. Constables, Nathl. Clap & Timothy Tilestone. Births 27. Deaths 5. This year Died Mr. Anthony Fisher, in ye 80th year of his age: and Mr. Nathanael Patten.

This year Jeremy Chickkatabut, son of Josias Chickkatabut, confirmed his uncles Squamaug Sale to ye Town of Dorchester. This year ye Revd. Mr. Josiah Flint was ordained Pastor of this Church, Dec. 27th, in ye room of Mr. Mather Decd. This year died Elder Geo. Minot abt. ye 24th Dec.

1672.

Selectmen.	Votes.
Mr. Stoughton	29
Capt. Foster	24
Lt. Capen	29
Wm. Sumner	22
Ensign Hall	17

Recorder, Lt. Capen
Treasurer, Capt. Foster
Raters { Serjt. Clap, Serjt. Wiswell, Serjt. Preston

Deputies { Capt. Hopestill Foster
Wm. Sumner }

Constables, Obediah Swift & Samuel Paul.

Births 14. Deaths but 3 Recorded. This year died Wm. Dier in ye 93d year of his age. This year ye Choice of Commissioners to end small causes ceased.

This year Mr. James Blake was ordained Deacon of this Church June 30th, 1672.

1673.

Selectmen, Mr. Stoughton, Capt. Foster, Lt. John Capen, Ensign Hall, & Wm. Sumner. Recorder, John Capen Senr. Raters, Serjt. Clap, Serjt. Blake & Serjt. Pond. Deputies, Capt. Clap, Capt. Foster. Afterwards in this year ye Court sent an order to choose another Deputy in ye Room of Capt. Clap, his presence being necessary at ye Castle because ye times were troublesome. The person Chose was Lt. John Capen. Constables, Amiel Weeks and Henry Leadbetter. Births 25. Deaths 6.

1674.

Selectmen, Mr. Stoughton, Capt. Foster, Lt. Capen, Wm. Sumner, & Ensign Hall. Recorder, Lt. John Capen. Raters, Serjt. Clap, Dea. Blake, & Serjt. Preston. Deputies, Capt. Hopestill Foster, & Lievt. John Capen. Constables, Thomas Pierce & John Capen Junr. Births 20. Deaths 4.

This year Died Mr. William Pole, of whom ye Records thus Speak. "Mr. William Pole, that sage, Reved. Pious man of God, departed this life Febr. 24th, 1674." He was Clerk of ye Writs & Regester of Births, Deaths & Marriages in Dorchester about 10 years; and often Schoolmaster in Dorchester. Upon his Tomb it is thus written.

"The Epitaph of William Pole, which he himself made while he was yet living, in Remembrance of his own Death, and left it to be Engraven on his Tomb, so that being Dead he might warn Posterity.

"Or a Resemblance of a Dead man bespeaking ye Reader."

"Ho Passenger 'tis worth thy Pains to stay
"And take a Dead mans Lesson by ye Way.
"I was what now thou art, & thou shalt be
"What I am now, what odds 'twixt me & thee!
"Now go thy way; but stay, take one word more,
"Thy Staff for ought thou know'st Stands next ye Door.
"Death is ye Door, ye Door of Heaven or Hell:
"Be warn'd, be arm'd, Believe, Repent, Farewell."

He Died Febr. 24th, 1674; Aged 81 years.

1675.

Selectmen, Lt. John Capen, Serjt. Clap, Dea. James Blake, Richard Withington, & Daniel Preston. Recorder, Lt. John Capen. Raters, Wm. Pond, Mr. Mather & Roger Billing. Deputies, Capt. Hopestill Foster & Lt. John Capen. Clerk of ye Writs, Wm. Weeks. Constables, Isaac Jones & John Withington. Births 37. Deaths 13.

1676.

Selectmen, Lt. John Capen, Serjt. Clap, Dea. Blake, Danl. Preston & Richard Withington. Recorder, Lt. John Capen. Raters, Mr. Timothy Mather, Serjt. Pond & Serjt. Wiswell. Deputies, Capt. Foster & Lt. John Capen. Constables, John Bird & John Breck. Births 34. Deaths 28.

This year Died Capt. Hopestill Foster Octr. 15, so often Improved in ye Town & Countrys Service. About this Year the Meeting-house that now is was built, & about that time ye Elm Trees now about ye Meeting-house were set by Mr. Thos. Tilestone.

The work of ye Meeting-house was undertaken by Mr. Isaac Royal & performed, I think, for £200.

1677.

Selectmen, Lt. John Capen, Daniel Preston, Richard Withington, Serjt. Saml. Clap & Dea. James Blake. Recorder, Lt. John Capen. Raters, Enoch Wiswell, John Breck & Saml. Robinson. Deputies, Lt. John Capen &

Dea. James Blake. Constables, James Bird & Thos. Tolman Junr. Births 36. Deaths 12. This year Died Mr. William Weeks, who had been Clerk of ye Writs & Register of Births Marriages & Deaths for ye Town of Dorchester about 2 years: and Deacon James Blake was Chosen in his Room.

1678.

Selectmen, Lt. Capen, Dea. Blake, Serjt. Clap, Wm. Sumner, & Serjt. Preston. Recorder, Lt. Capen. Raters, Serjt. Wiswell, Serjt. Pond & John Breck. Deputies, Lt. John Capen & Wm. Sumner. Constables, John Tolman & John Baker. Births 33. Deaths 30.

This Year Died Quartermaster John Smith; and Agnes ye widow of Mr. Wm. Blake died July 22d.

1679.

Selectmen, Lt. John Capen, Wm. Sumner, Dea. Blake, Ens. Hall, & Serjt. Clap. Recorder, Lt. Capen. Raters, Serjt. Pond, Serjt. Wiswell & John Breck. Deputy, Wm. Sumner. Const. Hopestill Clap & Saml. Topliff. Births 29. Deaths 18. This year Novr. 24th Died Nicholas Clap very suddenly in his Barn.

This year ye old Meeting-house sold for £10 to Isaac Royal.

1680.

Selectmen, Lt. Capen, Dea. Blake, Wm. Sumner, Ensign Richard Hall & Serjt. Samuel Clap. Recorder, Lt. Capen. Raters, Serjt. Wiswell, John Breck & Saml. Robinson. Deputy, Wm. Sumner. Bayliff, Clement Maxfield. Constables, Saml. Capen, & James Foster. Births 35. Deaths 8.

This year Sepr. 16th Died ye Revd. Mr. Josiah Flint, who had been Pastor of this Church almost 9 years. Upon his Tomb is written as follows.

"Here lies Interred ye Corps of Mr. Josiah Flint, late Pastor to ye Church in Dorchester, Aged 35 years.
Deceased Sepr. 15th, 1680.

"A Man of God he was so great, so good,
"His highest worth was hardly understood:
"So much of God & Christ in him did Dwell,
"In Grace & Holiness he did excell.
"An Honour & an ornament thereby,
"Both to ye Churches & the Ministry.
"Most zealous in ye work of Reformation,
"To save this self destroying Generation.
"With Courage Stroue 'gainst all this peoples sin;
"He spent his Strength, his Life, his Soul therein.
"Consum'd with holy zeal of God, for whom
"He liu'd, and dy'd a kind of Martyrdom.
"If men will not lament, their Hearts not break,
"No wonder this lamenting Stone doth Speak.
"His Tomb-stone cries Repent, and Souls to saue
"Doth Preach Repentance from his very Graue.
"'Gainst Sinners doth a lasting Record lye
"This Monument to his Bless'd Memory.

"Psal. 112. 6. Prov. 10. 7."

1681.

Selectmen, Dea. Blake, Serjt. Clap, Wilm. Sumner, Lt. Capen & Ens. Hall. Recorder, Dea. Blake. Raters, Serjt. Pond, Serjt. Wiswell & John Breck. Deputy, Wm. Sumner. Constables, John Payson, John Wales Senr. Births 27. Deaths 17.

This year Died Mr. John Foster, Son of Capt. Hopestill Foster; School-master of Dorchester, and he that made the then Seal or Arms of ye Colony, namely an Indian with a Bow & Arrow &c.

Upon his Tomb or Grave Stone is written as follows.

"The
"Ingenious
"Mathematition & Printer
"Mr. JOHN FOSTER.
"Aged Thirty three years; Died Sepr. 9th
"1681
"Apr. 1682.

"I. M.
"J. F. "Astra Colis vivens, moriens Super Æthera Foster,
"Scande Precor; Cælum Metiri disce Supremum:
"Metior atque meum est Emit mihi divis Jesus:
"Nec teneor quicquam nisi gratis Solvere."

This year Febr. 6, 1681, James Blake Jun. was married to Hannah Macy.

1682.

Selectmen, James Blake, Serjt. Wiswell, Serjt. Clap, Timothy Tilestone, & Ensign Hall. Raters, Wm. Pond, Samuel Robinson & John Breck. Recorder, James Blake. Deputy, Dea. James Blake. Constables, Timothy Foster & Nehemiah Clap. Births 38. Deaths 12.

This year ye 28th of June the Revd. Mr. John Danforth was Ordained Pastor of this Church, in Room of Mr. Flint deceased.

1683.

Selectmen, Lt. Hall, Ens. Clap, James Blake, Enoch Wiswell & Timothy Tilestone. Recorder, James Blake. Collector of Ministers Rate, Capt. Capen. Raters, Wm. Pond, Saml. Robinson & John Breck. Deputy, James Blake Senr. Constables, Nathl. Glover and Joseph Leeds. Births 28. Deaths 19.

This year died Hannah the Wife of James Blake Junr. June 1st, & their Child Elizabeth ye Novr. before, being about 12 Days old.

1684.

Selectmen, Ensign Clap, Lt. Hall, Dea. Blake, Serjt. Wiswell & Wm. Sumner. Recorder, Dea. Blake. Raters, Wm. Pond, Saml. Paul, John Breck. Dea. Blake, Collector of ye Minrs. Rate. Deputy, Wm. Sumner. Constables, Eben. Williams, Barnard Capen. Births 24. Deaths 8.

This year Died Mr. Timothy Mather Son of Mr. Richard Mather, Janr. 14th, by a fall from a Scaffold in ye Barn. Also Nehemiah Clap, Son to Dea. Edward Clap, & Brother to Ezra Clap, & to Elder Blakes wife, died Apr. 2d this year: He was Edward Clap of Sudbury his Father. This year July 8th James Blake Junr. & Ruth Batchelder by Simon Broadstreet, Govr. were married.

1685.

Selectmen, Ens. Clap, James Blake, Enoch Wiswell, Lt. Hall, John Breck. Recorder, James Blake. Collector [or Rather Treasurer] Capt. Capen. Raters, Wm. Pond, Saml. Paul & Saml. Topliff. Deputy, Wm. Sumner. Constables, Hopestill Humfrey and Ebenezer Withington. Births 22. Deaths 4.

This year Sepr. 16 was born Hannah ye Daughter of James Blake Junr.

1686.

Selectmen, Saml. Clap, Lt. Hall, Wm. Sumner, Serjant Wiswell, John Breck. Recorder, Serjt. Wiswell. But Serjt. Wiswell Refusing both, John Withington was Chosen Selectman, & Saml. Clap Recorder. Raters, Serjt. Pond, Serjt. Tilestone, Samuel Topliff. Deputy, Wm. Sumner. Constables, Daniel Preston Junr., Preserved Capen. Births 25. Deaths 7.

This year Octr. 2d Died Hannah ye Daughter of James Blake Junr. This year Died Elder James Humfrey, whose Tomb was repaired by his Grandson Mr. Jonas Humfrey, & upon it is written as follows.

Here lyes Interred ye Body of Mr. James Humfrey, one of ye
Ruling Elders of Dorchester, who departed this life
May 12th, 1686, in ye 78th year of his age.

I nelos'd within this shrine is precious Dust
A nd only waits for th' rising of ye Just.
M ost usefull while he liu'd, adorn'd his Station,
E uen to old age he Seru'd his Generation,
S ince his Decease tho't of with Veneration.

H ow great a Blessing this Ruling Elder he
U nto this Church & Town; & Pastors Three.
M ather he first did by him help Receiue;
F lint did he next his burthen much Relieue;
R enowned Danforth he did assist with skill.
E steemed high by all: Bear fruit untill
Y ielding to Death his Glorious seat did fill.

1687.

Selectmen, Samuel Clap, Timothy Tilestone, Lt. Hall, Wm. Sumner & Henry Leadbetter. Recorder, Samuel

Clap. Constables, James Blake & Isaac Royal. Births 33. Deaths 10. This Year ye Town Passed a Vote that ye Selectmen should be Raters this Year. This Year was Drowned one John Douse of Charlestown, at Neponsit Riuer on ye 23d of Novr. and was found cast upon Thomsons Island Shore ye 19th of March after.

There was no Deputies Chosen this Year, it being in ye Time of Sir Edmond Andrew's Gouernment. This Year Isaac Royal gaue a Receipt for £200 for ye new Meeting-house & was discharged of ye work.

1688.

Selectmen, John Breck, Saml. Clap, Timothy Tilestone, Henry Leadbetter, Saml. Robinson & John Withington. Constables, John Minot, John Blake. There was no Deputies nor Raters Chosen this Year. Births 32. Deaths 20.

This Year Apr. 30th James ye Son of James Blake Junr. was Born.

1689.

Selectmen, Samuel Clap, Timothy Tilestone, John Withington, Henry Leadbetter & Richard Hall. Recorder, Samuel Clap. Raters, Saml. Paul, James Foster & Saml. Topliff. Deputies, Samuel Clap & Timothy Tilestone. Births 31. Deaths 13. This Year Samuel Paul was Chosen Clerk of ye Writs. There is no Record of any Constables Chosen this Year.

1690.

Selectmen, Saml. Clap, Timothy Tilestone, Hopestill Clap, Henry Leadbetter & James Foster. Raters, Saml. Topliff, John Minot & Ebenezer Williams. Deputy, Samuel Clap. Constables, Standfast Foster & Charles Davenport. Births 15. Deaths 28.

This Year Apr. 4th Died Serjt. William Pond. And this Year Febr. 17th Died Capt. John Breck, and Janr. 26th John Minot Died, of ye Small Pox.

1691.

Selectmen, Samuel Clap, Henry Leadbetter, Timothy Tilestone, Hopestill Clap & Saml. Topliff. Deputy, Saml. Clap. Constables, Desire Clap & Philip Withington. Births 26. Deaths 20. This Year June 23d Died Lt. Richard Hall. There is a memorandum in my Fathers Book, which was ye Account which he kept, that from ye first of April 1690, unto ye last of July 1691, that is one year & four months, there died in Dorchester 57 Persons, 33 of them of ye Small Pox, the Rest of a Feaver; the most of them of a middle age. About ye same time [that is in 1690] lost at Sea 46 Soldiers* that went to Canada; in all 103. By which it appears that all ye Deaths were not brought to Record these years, more especially in 1690.

1692.

Untill this year ye Selectmen were Chosen in December, but those that were Chosen in December 91, served untill March 92–3, and then there was a new Choice for ye year 1693. Raters, none. Deputies, none. Constables, Wm. Royal, Isaac Humfrey. Births 21. Deaths 16.

This Year Died Capt. John Capen: he was also Deacon of ye Church, & had been Selectman 16 years & Recorder 13 years; and wrote more in the Books than any one man by far; keeping ye Books in good order. He wrote about 246 Pages in both Books.

1693.

Selectmen, Enoch Wiswell, Saml. Robinson, John Tolman, James Bird, Increase Sumner. Town Clerk & Recorder, Robert Searl. Constables, Samuel Jones, James Baker. Deputies, none. Births 35. Deaths 13.

This year July 29th Died Sarah ye widow of Clement Topliff, aged 88 years. And Thos. Trott Junr. by a fall from his Cart, Janr. 13th. And Elizabeth ye wife of Elder James Blake, Janr. 16, 1693–4.

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*See Appendix, Note H.

1694.

Mr. Thomas Tilestone Died June 24th 1694, aged 83 years.

Selectmen, John Tolman, John Bird, James Foster, James White & Saml. Capen. Town Clerk, Robert Searl. Note, when Assessors are not Chosen, the Selectmen are Assessors. Constables, Samuel Wales, Increase Sumner. Births 25. Deaths 12. Representatiue, Lt. Tilestone. And Commissioner, Capt. Saml. Clap. This year ye School-house that now is, was built, John Trescott Carpenter, Cost 22 pounds.

1695.

Selectmen, John Tolman, James Foster, John Bird. James White & Samuel Capen. Town Clerk, Robt. Searl. Deputy or Repres. Capt. Clap. Constables, Robt. Spur Junr. & Eben. Jones. Births 31. Deaths 9.

This year Decr. 31st Died Mrs. Ann Pierce, Widow of Mr. Robert Pierce, being about 104 years old.

1696.

Selectmen, Saml. Capen, Ens. Foster, John Bird, James White, Dea. Topliff. Town Clerk, Robert Searl. Constables, Eben. Davenport, Joseph Withington. Representatiue, Capt. Clap. Assessors, Capt. Saml. Clap, Ensign James Foster & Deacon Topliff. Births 29. Deaths 7. This year Died July 28th Thos. Trott, aged 82 years. And Purchase Capen was Killed by ye accidental firing of a Gun, Sepr. 9th, a young man about 20 or 21 years old.

1697.

Selectmen, Capt. Clap, Dea. Topliff, Dea. Clap, Samuel Capen, Ens. Foster. Town Clerk, Robert Searl. Town Treasurer, Capt. Clap. Representatiue, none Recorded. Constables, Ephraim Payson, Saml. Paul. Births 26. Deaths 6. This year Aug. 9th Died Lt. Timothy Tilestone.

1698.

Selectmen, Capt. Clap, Dea. Clap, Dea. Topliff, Saml. Wales, Samuel Capen. Clerk, Robt. Searl. Representatiue, none Recorded. Constables, Saml. Payson, Oliver Wiswell. Births 33. Deaths 7. This year Decr. 16th Died Saml. Pierce, Son of Thos. Pierce Senr. with a broken Legg by ye fall of a Tree. He was a young man.

This year was Finished ye laying out ye 12 Divisions of Land, so called, in ye new Grant.

1699.

Selectmen, Dea. Topliff, Dea. Clap, Saml. Wales, James Foster, Daniel Preston. Clerk, Robt. Searl. Representatiue, Capt. Clap. Constables, Noah Beman, Samuel Trott. Births 27. Deaths 11. This year Sepr. 11th Died Wm. Trescot aged 84 years 8 months. And Wid. Elizabeth George Novr. 8th, aged 98 years. Increase Blake, Son of James Blake, born this year June 8th 1699.

1700.

Selectmen, Capt. Clap, Daniel Preston, Charles Dauenport, Samuel Wales, James Blake. Clerk, Robert Searl. Deputy, none Recorded. Constables, Roger Billing, Humphrey Atherton.

Births 34. Deaths 15.

This year June 28th Died Elder James Blake, aged 77 years. He was first a Deacon of ye Church in Dorchester about 11 years, & then a Ruling Elder of ye same Church about 14 years, unto his death.

1701.

Selectmen, Capt. Clap, Daniel Preston, James Blake, Samuel Wales & Charles Davenport. Clerk, Robert Searl. Representatiue, Mr. Samuel Robinson. Constables, Jonathan Hall, Humphrey Atherton. Births 35. Deaths 19. This year July 26th Abby Christian was drowned & Cast ashore upon Dorchester neck of Land.

This year Died Richard Withington Senr. Decr. 22:

aged about 84 years. This year July 7th Died ye Honble. Wm. Stoughton Esqr. Lt. Govr. & Commander in Chief of this Province: Upon his Tomb is thus written.*

GULIELMUS STOUGHTONUS, ARMIGER
Provinciæ Massachusettensis In Nova Anglia Legatus,
deinde Gubernator;
Nec-non Curiæ in eadem Provincia Superioris
Justiciarius Capitalis,
Hic Jacet.
Vir Conjugij nescius,
Religione Sanctus,
Virtute Clarus,
Doctrina Celebris,
Ingenio Acutus,
Sanguine et Animo pariter Illustris,
Æquitatis Amator,
Legum Propugnator,
Collegij Stoughtoniani Fundator,
Literarum et Literatorum Fautor Celeberrimus,
Impietatis et Vitij Hostis Acerrimus.
Hunc Rhetores amant Facundum,
Hunc Scriptores norunt Elegantem,
Hunc Philosphi quærunt Sapientem,
Hunc Doctores Laudant Theologum,
Hunc Pij Venerantur Austerum,
Hunc Omnes Mirantur; Omnibus Ignotum,
Omnibus Licet Notum.
Quid Plura Viator! Quem perdidimus—
STOUGHTONUM!
Heu!
Satis dixi, urgent Lachrymæ,
Sileo.
Vixit Annos Septuaginta;
Septimo Die Julij Anno Salutis 1701
Cecidit.
Heu! Heu! Qualis Luctus!

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*See Appendix, Note I.

1702.

Selectmen, Dea. Hopestill Clap, Dea. Daniel Preston, James Blake, Saml. Wales, Charles Davenport. Clerk, Robert Searl. Deputy, Mr. Saml. Robinson. Constables, John Blackman & Thomas Lion in ye Room of Eben. Billing who Refused to serue. Births 31. Deaths 14.

1703.

Selectmen, James Blake, Charles Davenport, Saml. Wales, Dea. Clap, Dea. Preston. Clerk, R. Searl. Representatiue, Dea. Hopestill Clap. Constables, Samuel Clap, John Minot. Births 35. Deaths 8.

This year Janr. 5th, 1702–3, Died Mrs. Foster, widow of Capt. Hopestill Foster, aged 83 years. And Eben. Bird by a fall from his Horse. And Robt. Spurr Died Aug. 16, aged 93 years. And John White was killed with his Cart, Novr. 3d.

1704.

Selectmen, Lt. Foster, Capt. Foster, Serjt. Capen, Dea. Clap & James Blake. Town Clerk, Robert Searl. Deputy, none Recorded. Constables, Nathl. Butt & John Pierce. Births 40. Deaths 12.

1705.

Selectmen, Dea. Preston, James Blake, Dea. Clap, Saml. Capen, John Blake. Town Clerk, Robert Searl. Deputy, none Recorded. Constables, Eben. Mawdsley, John Tolman, & John Puffer for Punkapaog. Births 41. Deaths 6.

This year Died Feb. 6th Old Mrs. Wiat, Widow, being 94 years of age, having as a Midwife assisted ye Birth of one Thousand One Hundred & odd Children.

1706.

Selectmen.	Votes.		
Saml. Wales	58	Town Clerk, Robert Searl	
Char. Davenport	43	Deputy, Dea. Clap	
Capt. Spur	43	Ralph Pope	Constables.
Lt. Paul	36	Jos. Leeds Jun.	Constables.
Saml. Payson	34	James Fales	Constables.

Births 38. Deaths 10.
This Year Novr. 28th Died Mr. Enoch Wiswell.

1707.

Selectmen.	Votes.		
Capt. Spur	62	Town Clerk, Robert Searl Senr.	
Saml. Wales	59	Deputy, none Recorded.	
Saml. Paul	49	Henry Leadbetter	Constab.
Saml. Payson	47	Jonathan Clap	Constab.
Edwd. Breck	44	Eben. Billing Jun.	Constab.

Births 31. Deaths 12. This year Died widow Maxfield, aged 86 years. And Dea. Preston Senr.

This year Punkapaog Plantation with some other of ye Inhabitants of ye New-Grant were set off a Precinct by themselues, as far as Mashapaog Pond & Moose-hill. And ye Meeting-house ordered to be sett where it now stands upon Packeen Plain.

1708.

Selectmen, Capt. Robert Spur, Saml. Wales, Saml. Paul, Edwd. Breck, Hopestill Humfrey. Town Clerk, Robert Searl. Deputy, Dea. Hopestill Clap. Constables, Increase Leadbetter, Nathl. Glover Junr., John Foster. Births 33. Deaths 14.

This year Died Octr. 16th Elder Samuel Clap, who had also been a long time Captain, & often a Representatiue, a very worthy man; he was Ruling Elder of ye Church of Dorchester almost 7 years; aged abt. 74 years.

1709.

Selectmen.	Votes.	Selectmen.	Votes.
Serjt. Hopestill Humfrey	76	Char. Davenport	50
Saml. Wales	65	Ens. Edwd. Breck	41
Saml. Paul	65		

Town Clerk, Samuel Paul. Representatiue, Elder Hopestill Clap. Constables, Joseph Bird, Robert Field, Thos. Tolman Jun., Robert Field & Thos. Tolman Refusing Saml. Robinson Junr. & Henry White were Chosen. Births 48. Deaths 11.

This year Janr. 30th, 1709–10 Died Mr. Thomas Bird. This year Dea. Hopestill Clap was Chosen Ruling Elder of ye Church & Ordained.

1710.

Selectmen, Samuel Paul, Edward Breck, Hopestill Humfrey, Saml. Wales, & Philip Withington. Town Clerk, Saml. Paul. Deputy, Elder Hopestill Clap. Constables, Ebenezer Clap, Abraham How for Capt. Tilestone, Jacob Shepard. Births 39. Deaths 10.

1711.

Selectmen, Hopestill Humfrey, Edwd. Breck, Philip Withington, Saml. Paul, Saml. Wales. Town Clerk, Saml. Paul. Deputy, Hopestill Clap. Constables, Obediah Swift, Joseph Weeks, Henry Crane. Births 35. Deaths 14.

1712.

Selectmen.	Votes.		
Ensign Edwd. Breck	58	Town Clerk, John Blake	
Serjt. Hopestill Humfrey	43	Repres. Mr. Hopestill Clap	
Philip Withington	39	Constables	Joshua Pumery
Samuel Wales	33		Eben. Holmes
Samuel Clap	33		James Puffer

Births 38. Deaths 16. This year Mar. 9th Joseph Bird died by a wound in his fore-head occasioned by his Gun flying out of ye Stock when he fired it at Fowl, being upon ye water in his Cannoo. And Saml. Wales died Janr. 20th.

1713.

Selectmen.	Votes.		
Serjt. Hopestill Humfrey	66	Town Clerk, Lt. Saml. Paul	
Ens. Edward Breck	53	Deputy, Mr. Hopestill Clap	
Serjt. Samuel Clap	54	Constabl.	Noah Beman
Capt. Thomas Tilestone	45		James Trott
Ensn. Char. Davenport	45		Rich. Hixon

Births 27. Deaths 13. This year Sepr. 3d Died Ens. Edwd. Breck. And Novr. 11th Died James White.

This year Majr. Robert Spur, Roger Billing, Capt. Oliver Wiswell, Capt. Thos. Tilestone & Capt. Saml. Paul Committee, & James Blake Junr. Surveyor, began in ye month of May to measure ye Cedar Swamps &c. This year ye Proprietors, Incorporated into a distinct Body from ye Town. And ye Colony Line Run & Settled by ye Gen. Court.

1714.

Selectmen.	Votes.		
Hopestill Humfrey	60	Town Clerk, Saml. Paul	
Samuel Clap	56	Deputy, Eld. Hopestill Clap	
Thomas Tilestone	46	Constables	Joseph Hall
Samuel Paul	43		John Robinson
Charles Davenport	41		John Wintworth

Births 36. Deaths 22. This year ye line between Dorchester & Wrenthem was Extended from Station Tree ye most S. W. Bounds before made, unto near ye Pattent or Colony Line.

1715.

Selectmen, Hopestill Humfrey, Saml. Clap, Capt. Thos. Tilestone, John Blake, Nathl. Glover. Town Clerk, John Blake. Represen. Eld. Hopestill Clap. Constables, Smith Woodward & Joseph Hall in his stead, Joseph Blake, Samuel Davis. Births 35. Deaths 13. This year Apr. 29 Died Mr. Saml. Blake at Barnstable.

1716.

Selectmen.	Votes.		
		Town Clerk, John Blake	
Hopestill Humfrey	64	Deputy, Eld. Hopestill Clap	
Capt. Paul	34	Constables	Thos. Mawdsley
Capt. Tilestone	31		Thos. Trott
Mr. Nathl. Glover Jun.	40		Saml. Bullard
John Blake	61		Saml. Lane

Births 47. Deaths 10. This year Febr. 7th, 1716–17 Died Robert Searl, who was Town Clerk about 16 years.

This year abt. ye 19th of Febr. fell ye remarkable great Snow, after a moderate Winter.

1717.

Selectmen.	Votes.	
Philip Withington	52	Town Clerk, John Blake
John Blake	51	Represen. Eld. Hopestill Clap
Hopestill Humfrey	45	Consta. Remember Preston, Saml. Leeds, Obadiah Haws, Jona. Billing
Capt. Thos. Tilestone	38	
Nathl. Glover Junr.	31	

Births 28. Deaths 15. This year Died Capt. Roger Billing Janr. 27th, Capt. Eben. Billing Esqr. Janr. 25th, and Mr. John Blake, who was Town Clerk about 4 years at several times, & Deacon of ye Church not many weeks, died Mar. 2d, 1717–18.

1718.

Selectmen.	Votes.	
Hopestill Humfrey	81	Town Clerk, Saml. Paul
Philip Withington	90	Deputy, Capt. Thos. Tilestone
Thos. Tilestone	79	Consta. Preserved Capen, Jerijah Wales, Joseph Tucker, Saml. Billing
Saml. Paul	78	
Saml. Capen	74	

Town Treasurer, Jonathan Clap.

Births 37. Deaths 23. This year Sepr. 16th Died Mr. Saml. Robinson Senr. & John Minot Mar. 21st, and Thomas Tolman Senr. Sept. 12th in ye 85th year of his age.

1719.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
Thomas Tilestone	97	Town Clerk, Saml. Paul
Samuel Paul	94	Deputy, Capt. Tilestone
Standfast Foster	76	Consta. Matthew Pimer, Edwd. Foster, Philip Liscom, John Hixson
Ebenezer Mawdsley	75	
Col. Robert Spur	69	
Eben. Billing	50	
Nathl. Hubbard Esqr.	47	

Births 34. Deaths 11. This year Febr. 1st Died Charles Davenport often Selectman: And Elder Hopestill Clap, often Selectman, & Representatiue about 15 years; and Dea. of ye Church about 17 years, & Ruling Elder about 10 years. Upon his Graue-Stone is written by his Pastor Mr. John Danforth as follows.

"Here lies Interred ye Body of Mr. Hopestill Clap, who Deceased Sepr. 2d, 1719, aged 72 years.

His Dust waits 'till ye Jubily,
Shall then Shine brighter than ye Sky;
Shall meet & join to part no more,
His Soul that's Glorified before.
Pastors and Churches happy be
With Ruling Elders such as he:
Present Useful, Absent Wanted,
Liv'd Desired, Died Lamented."

1720.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.		Votes.
Samuel Paul	89	Nathl. Hubbard Esqr.	73
Eben. Mawdsley	83	Standfast Foster	65
Thos. Tilestone	80	Ebenezer Billing	65
Col. Robt. Spur	74		

Town Clerk, Samuel Paul. Representatiues, Majr. Thos. Tilestone first, and at a new Court in June or July Col. Robt. Spur. Constables, James Bird Junr., Israel Leadbetter, Edwd. Bayley, Saml. Man.

Births 27. Deaths 8. Town Treasurer, Eben. Mawdsley.

1721.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
Ebenezer Mawdsley	125	Town Clerk, Eb. Mawdsley
Jonathan Clap	92	Town Treas. Jona. Clap
Samuel Capen	80	Deputy, Col. Robt. Spur
Hopestill Humfrey	80	Consts. & Collec. { Robert Searl, Robt. Spur Jun., Thos. Spur, John Gay
Joseph Blake	72	

Births 53. Deaths 12.

This year ye Small Pox went through Boston, & it was in 29 families in this Town, whereof 13 Persons Died, two of them being Strangers. This year died Mr. Saml. Payson, & Nathl. Butt, & Edwd. Payson of ye Small Pox.

1722.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.		
Deacon Jona. Clap	76	Town Clerk, Saml. Paul	
Majr. Thos. Tilestone	70	Treasurer, Dea. Jona. Clap	
Col. Robt. Spur	67	Deputy, Col. Robt. Spur	
Capt. Paul	65	Consta.	Robert Searl
Joseph Blake	46		Isaac How
			Elias Monk
			Jeremiah Ruggles

Births 43. Deaths 14.

This year July 6th Died Mrs. Elizabeth Danforth, ye wife of ye Revd. Mr. John Danforth, in ye 59th year of her age. And Apr. 20th Mr. Henry Leadbetter Senr. And Octr. 12th Elder Samuel Topliff: He was a man of Piety, parts & worth, and was Ruling Elder in this Church about 21 years: he died in ye 77th year of his age.

1723.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.		
Jonathan Clap	110	Town Clerk, Saml. Paul	
Joseph Blake	110	Town Treasr. Jona. Clap	
Samuel Paul	99	Repres. Col. Robt. Spur	
Majr. Thos. Tilestone	95	Consta.	Eben. Williams
Col. Robt. Spur	94		Eben. Paul
			Eben. Warren
			Solomon Hews

Births 45. Deaths 22.

This year Died Dea. Jonathan Clap, Janr. 2d, and Lt. Samuel Clap, Janr. 30, who was also Chosen Deacon but Refused; they were both of them very Pious and usefull men & much lamented. There died also Several other middle aged Persons about ye same time of a Feaver,

James Bishop, Barnard Capen, James Bird Senr. & his Wife & Daughter, &c.

1724.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.		Votes.
Joseph Blake	102	Saml. Paul	82
James Blake Jun.	89	Col. Robt. Spur	62
Majr. Tilestone	88		

Town Clerk, Saml. Paul. Town Treasurer, James Blake Junr. Repres. Col. Robt. Spur. Constables, Samuel Withington, Charles Redman, Samuel Scott, Eben. Williams for Francis Price.

Births 43. Deaths 15.

1725.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.		Votes.
James Blake Junr.	90	Joseph Blake refused & Preserved Capen Chosen	70
Majr. Thos. Tilestone	45		
Philip Withington	30		
Joseph Hewins	30	Town Clerk, Jas. Blake Jun.	

Treasurer, James Blake Junr. Deputy, Majr. Thomas Tilestone. Constables, Benja. Bird, Robert Royal, Wm. Crane, Eleazer Rhodes; Robert Field & Wm. Billing pd. their fine. Births 53. Deaths 13.

This year died Richard Evans March 10th, aged about 86 years. And this year also Died Elder Daniel Preston March 13th, 1725–6. He was Ruling Elder about 6 years, & Died in ye 77th Year of his age.

The Elders of this Church have been,

Elder Henry Withington, Died Febr. 2d, 1666, aged 79 years.

Elder George Minot, Died about Decr. 24, 1671, aged

Elder James Humfrey, Died May 12th, 1686, in ye 78th year of his age.

Eld. James Blake, Died June 28th, 1700, in ye 77th year of his age.

Eld. Saml. Clap, Died Octr. 16th, 1708, aged about 74 years.

Eld. Hopestill Clap, Died Sepr. 2d, 1719, in ye 72d year of his age.
Eld. Samuel Topliff, Died Octr. 12, 1722, in ye 77th year of his age.
Eld. Daniel Preston, Died Mar. 13, 1725–26, in ye 77th year of his age.

1726.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
James Blake Junr.	105	Clerk, James Blake Junr.
Mr. Philip Withington	77	Treasurer, Jas. Blake Jun.
Majr. Thos. Tilestone	60	Dep. Maj. Thos. Tilestone
Mr. Preserved Capen	54	
Mr. Eben. Clap	49	

Constables:
- John Beighton
- Abraham How, & he Rémoving to Boston
- Matthias Evans chosen in his Room
- Samuel Hartwell
- James Draper
- John Andrews, Paid his fine
- Richard Withington, Paid his fine

Births 44. Deaths 9. This year Died Aug. 25th Capt. Saml. Paul, who had been often Selectman, & he was Town Clerk 11 years.

This year Punkapaog or ye South Precinct with ye Lands beyond it in ye Township of Dorchester were sett off a Township by themselues, by ye Name of Stoughton, leaving Dorchester but a Small Town, being narrow, and but about 9 or 10 Miles in length, ye upper part being wood land & unsettled; which before was about 35 miles in length & in some places 6 or 8 miles wide; the length being Reckoned from Dorchester-neck to Angle-Tree, as ye Road goeth.

1727.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.		Votes.
James Blake Junr.	79	Mr. Ebenezer Clap	44
Majr. Thos. Tilestone	78	Elijah Danforth Esq.	36
Mr. Preserved Capen	55		

Town Clerk, James Blake Junr. Town Treasurer, James Blake Junr. Representatiue, Majr. Thos. Tilestone.

Constables { Thomas Evans, Richard Haws, John Maxfield & dismist, Thomas Bird & paid his fine.

Births 28. Deaths 6. This year Octr. 29th about 10 of ye clock at night a terrible Earthquake, Continuing by times for several months. See 1744.

1728.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.
Majr. Thomas Tilestone	78
James Blake Junr.	78
Benja. Bird	63
Thomas Trott	61
Elijah Danforth Esq. & Refused	55
Capt. Robert Spur Jun.	41

Town Clerk, James Blake Junr.

Town Treasr. James Blake Junr.

Representatiue, Majr. Thos. Tilestone

Constables { James Foster Junr., Daniel Tolman.

Births 39. Deaths 10.

1729.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.		Votes.
Mr. Benja. Bird	69	Col. Thos. Tilestone	42
James Blake Junr.	68	Capt. Robt. Spur Junr.	40
Mr. Thomas Trott	57		

Town Clerk, James Blake Junr. Town Treasurer, James Blake Junr. Representatiue, Mr. Benjamin Bird. Constables, Joseph Bass, Samuel Tolman, Ebenez. Jones Junr. Paid his fine, Saml. Capen Junr. Paid his Fine. Births 26. Deaths 9.

This year Aug. 4th Died Hannah ye Widow of William Blake, formerly ye wife of George Lion, in ye 91st year of her age.

This year ye Revd. Mr. Jonathan Bowman was ordained

Colleague Pastor with ye Revd. Mr. John Danforth (he being aged) Novr. 5th.

1730.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
Mr. Benja. Bird	77	Town Clerk, James Blake Junr.
James Blake Junr.	78	
Lt. Thos. Wiswell	61	Treasurer, James Blake Jun.
Mr. Preserved Capen	55	
Mr. John Robinson	45	

Representatiue, Mr. Benja. Bird. Constables. John Wiswell, John Trescot Junr., Humfrey Heman & Paid his fine, Eben. Withington & Paid his fine, John Capen & Refused & Paid his fine. Births 38. Deaths 11.

This year May 26th Died ye Revd. Mr. John Danforth, who had been Pastor of this Church about 48 years; in ye 70th year of his age. He was S^d^ to be a man of great Learning, he understood ye Mathematicks beyond most men of his Function. He was exceeding Charitable, & of a very peacefull temper. He took much pains to Eternize ye Names of many of ye good Christians of his own Flock; And yet ye World is so ungratefull, that he has not a Line Written to preserue his memory, no not so much as upon his Tomb; he being buried in Lt. Govr. Stoughton's Tomb that was covered with writing before. And there also lyeth his Consort Mrs. Elizabeth Danforth.

1731.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
James Blake Junr.	52	Town Clerk, James Blake Junr.
Mr. Benja. Bird	47	
Mr. John Robinson	41	Treasur., James Blake Jun.
Lt. Thos. Wiswell	40	Deputy, Mr. Benja. Bird
Mr. Preserved Capen	37	

Constables, John Wales, John Trescot.

Births 44. Deaths 16. This year Died Mar. 22d 1730–31, Mr. Hopestill Humfrey, often Selectman, in ye 82d year of his age. And Rebecca ye widow of Richard

Evans in ye 85th year of her age. And Mrs. Susannah Clap, widow of Elder Hopestill Clap, March 2d, 1731–32, about 80 years of age. And ye Honourable William Tailor Esq., Lt. Governor &c. Died March 1st, 1731–2, and was buried in Govr. Stoughton's Tomb.

1732.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
James Blake Junr.	42	Town Clerk, James Blake Junr.
Lt. Thomas Wiswell	36	
Mr. John Robinson	30	Treasur., James Blake Junr.
Mr. Preserved Capen	29	Repres., Mr. Benja. Bird
Mr. Benja. Bird	28	

Constables, John Blackman Junr., Hezekiah Barber, Stephen Badlam & paid his fine, Ralph Morgain & paid his fine, Daniel Preston & paid his fine. Births 36. Deaths 19. This year Octr. 4th Died Mr. James Foster, often Commissioner & Selectman, in ye 82d year of his age. And his wife Mrs. Anna Foster died about 5 Days before him. And this Octr. 22d Died Deacon James Blake, in ye 81st year of his age, he having Languished about 7 years with an ulcerous Leg very painfull; but at last died of an Epedemical Cold that then carried off many aged People. He was a Deacon in this Church about 23 years, and once Chosen Elder but Refused it.

Upon his Graue Stone is thus written.

"Here lyes Buried ye Body of Mr. James Blake, who departed this Life Octr. 22d, 1732, Aged 80 years & 2 months.
He was a member in full Communion with ye Church of Christ in Dorchester aboue 55 years, and a Deacon of ye Same Church aboue 35 years.

Seven years Strong Pain doth end at last,
His weary Days & Nights are past;
The Way is Rough, ye End is Peace;
Short Pain giues place to endless Ease."

There died also Several other aged People this year—as Mr. Ephraim Payson, James Barber, Mrs. Royal widow

of Isaac Royal, Ebenezer Holmes his wife, and Mr. John Bird Aug. 2d, aged 90 years & Six Months.

1733.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters 77.
James Blake	73	Town Clerk, Jas. Blake
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	66	Treasr. James Blake
Capt. Preserved Capen	59	Deputy, Mr. Benja. Bird
Col. Thos. Tilestone	42	
Mr. John Robinson	42	

Constables, John Brown, Nathl. Holmes; and Lt. Joshua Sever, Edwd. Capen, Consider Leeds, John Daman, George Payson, Eben. Mawdsley Jun., Joseph Leeds Jun. & Samuel Humfrey paid their Fines.

Births 37. Deaths 13. This year died Mr. Samuel Capen, often a Selectman, in ye year of his age.

1734.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters 68.
James Blake	59	
Col. Thos. Tilestone	48	Town Clerk, James Blake.
Capt. Preserved Capen	46	Treasurer, James Blake.
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	40	
Capt. Robt. Spur Jun.	39	

Representatiue, Col. Thos. Tilestone. Constables, Thomas Glover, George Minot; and Saml. Paul Paid his fine.

Births 32. Deaths 15. From ye year 1657 to ye end of this year there is 2416 Births, and 921 Deaths, that is in ye Space of 78 years; which shows that many of ye People that were Born in ye Town moved out & Died not here. And ye number of Births in a year for 40 or 50 years past were not many less than they are now, (except when Stoughton also belonged to this Town,) which shows ye People are not much more numerous (if any thing) now, than they were then. And in Capt. John Capen's time, there is left a list of Persons Seated in ye meeting-house that now is, and ye number of men then Seated were 171,

and ye number of women were 180; which seems to be as many as can sit in those seats now.

This present year 1735.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters 77.
James Blake	72	
Capt. Preserved Capen	62	Town Clerk, James Blake
Col. Thos. Tilestone	60	Treasurer, James Blake
Capt. Robt. Spur Jun.	43	
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	41	

Constables, Samuel Butt, Joseph Weeks Jun.; and John Glover, Moses Billing, Henry Bird, Jonas Humfrey, Enoch Wiswell, Jacob Humfrey, & William Withington were Chosen & Refused, and are to pay their Fines. Representatiue, Col. Thos. Tilestone.

Births 33. Deaths 18. This Year June 12th John Clap, son of Mr. Eben. Clap, was drawing a heavy Log upon a pair of Draughts, & ye Lever sliping loose ye end flew ouer & struck him on ye Forehead, of which he died in about 24 Hours, he being then at Stoughton.

1736.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters 77.
James Blake	67	
Capt. Robert Spur Jun.	43	Town Clerk, James Blake
Col. Thomas Tilestone	40	Town Treas'r, James Blake
Capt. Preserved Capen	40	
Lt. Thos. Bird	35	Voters 66.

Constables, Jonathan Davis, Edward Kilton; and Capt. Thos. Wiswell, Stephen Fowler, Thomas Evans Jun., John Capen, Wm. Robinson, John Robinson Jun., Samuel Durant, Timothy Tilestone Jun., & Naphtali Pierce were Chosen & Refused to Serue & are to pay their fines.

Representatiue, Thomas Tilestone Esqr.

Births 41. Deaths 20. This Year Apr. 28th Died Mr. Mather Withington, Son of Mr. Eben. Withington, in ye 22d year of his age, a Candidate for ye Ministry & had begun to Preach. Also Octr. 8th Elijah Danforth Esqr.,

(Son of our late Revd. Pastor Mr. John Danforth, Decd.) in ye 53d year of his Age. He was a good and safe Physician, and had been one of ye Justices of ye Peace for ye County of Suffolk for many years together. Decr. 27th Mr. Philip Withington, Grandfather of ye S^d Mather Withington, Decd. in ye 76th year of his age. He was sometime Selectman, & other wise Improved in ye Town. Janr. 4th Died Mr. Timothy Tilestone, in ye 74th year of his age.

This winter was very Cold & long, & ye Spring very wet & backward.

1737.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters 47.
James Blake	37	
Thos. Tilestone Esqr.	28	Town Clerk, James Blake
Capt. Robert Spur Jun.	28	Town Treasurer, James Blake
Capt. Preserved Capen	26	
Mr. Thomas Bird	24	

Constables, Matthew Pimer & John Tolman Jun., also John Blake, Richard Hall, Oliver Wiswell, Ichabod Jones, & Samuel Clap, were Chosen Constables first, but Refused to Serue & Paid their Fine.

Representatiue, Mr. Benjamin Bird.

Births 32. Deaths 18. This Year Aug. 29th Died Mrs. Dorothy Quincy, Consort of ye Honble. Edmund Quincy Esq., Daughter of our former Pastor ye Revd. Mr. Josiah Flint: she died at Brantrey in ye 60th year of her age: and her mother Mrs. Esther Flint, Widow of ye S^d Mr. Josiah Flint, died at Brantrey about a month or 5 weeks before her.

The aboue mentioned Edmund Quincy Esqr. quickly after ye Death of his Wife undertook an agency to ye Court of Great Britain in behalf of ye Province about ye Settlement of ye Line between this Province & New-Hamshier, and set sail from Boston Decr. 20th, 1737, attended by Govr. Belcher & other Gentlemen below ye Castle, where ye Cannon were Discharged as he passed by. He had a

Comfortable & quick passage to London; but he not having had ye Small Pox & fearing he might take it ye Common Way (it being then in ye City) was advised to take it by Inoculation, which he did soon after his arrival, and Died of ye same at London, Febr. 23d, 1737, in ye 57th Year of his Age. The Province were at ye Expence of his Funeral, and ye General Assembly gaue order to erect to his precious memory a handsome Monument upon his Graue in *Bunhill-Fields, London*, with an elegant Latin Inscription, Englised as follows, viz.

"Here are deposited ye Remains of EDMUND QUINCY, ESQR. native of ye *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New England*, a Gentleman of distinguished Piety, Prudence & Learning.

Who early merited Praise, for discharging with ye greatest Ability & approved Integrity, the various Imployments, both in ye Civil and Military Affairs that his Country Intrusted him with (these Especially) as one of His Majesty's Council, a Justice of ye Supreme Court of Judicature, and Colonel of a Regiment of Foot.

The Publick Affairs of his Country so Requiring, he embarked their Agent to ye Court of Great Britain in order to secure their Rights and Privileges.

Being Seized with ye Small Pox, he died a premature Death, & with him, the advantages expected from his Agency with ye greatest prospect of Success: he departed the Delight of his own People, but of none more than ye Senate, who as a Testimony of their Love & Gratitude haue ordered this Epitaph to be Inscribed on his Monument.* He Died at London, Febr. 23d, 1737, in ye 57th Year of his Age."

* The Monument itself was raised at ye Expense of ye Government; viz. Twenty Pounds Sterling.

1738.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters 65.
James Blake	57	
Thos. Tilestone Esqr.	46	Town Clerk, J. Blake
Capt. Robt. Spur Jun.	41	Town Treasur., J. Blake
Mr. Thos. Bird	36	
Mr. Thos. Trott	34	

Representatiue, Capt. Thomas Wiswell. Constables, Joseph Hall Junr. & Thomas Lyon Junr.; and William Clap, Samuel Durant & John Maxfield paid their Fine.

Births 48. Deaths 13.

This year Died in January 1738–9, Robert Spur Esqr. in ye 78th year of his age. He had been a long time one of ye Justices of ye Peace for ye County of Suffolk. He had been also Lt. Colonel of a Regiment of Foot. And also had served as a Selectman Eight years, & as Representatiue Fiue Years. All which Posts he managed with fidelity & applause. And a little before him, July 27th, Died his Consort Mrs. Elizabeth Spur, in ye 73d Year of her age. Also this Year Died Mr. Joseph Blake, in ye 72d Year of his age. He had been a Selectman 4 Years: and died Febr. 1st, 1738–9. Also Mary Pimer, Widow of Matthew Pimer, Died Octr. 13th in ye 74th Year of her age.

1739.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
James Blake	50	
Col. Thos. Tilestone	39	Town Clerk, James Blake
Capt. Robert Spur	38	Town Treasurer, James Blake
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	36	
Col. Estes Hatch	34	

Representatiue, Capt. Thos. Wiswell.

Constables, Samuel Blake, Robert Erskin. And Alexander Glover paid his Fine.

Births 33. Deaths 21.

This Year March 6th, 1739–40, Died Priscilla Wife of Mr. James Foster, in ye 47th year of her age. And Janr. 26th Wm. Patten was drowned going ouer Neponsit Riuer on ye Ice. And War Proclaimed with Spain.

1740.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
James Blake	57	Voters 61.
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	33	

Thos. Tilestone Esqr.	32	Voters 53.
Mr. Thomas Bird	28	
Mr. Thomas Trott	39	Voters 63.

Town Clerk, James Blake. Town Treasurer, James Blake. Representatiue, Capt. Thos. Wiswell. Constables, Humfrey Atherton Junr. & John White; and Elisha Dauenport, Acquilla Tolman, Robert Searl Junr. paid their Fine.

Births 41. Deaths 12.

In ye fall of this Year the Revd. Mr. George Whitefield an Itinerant Preacher came to Boston, & ye Towns hereabout, many of them, and Preached generally twice a Day, sometimes in ye Meeting-houses & often in ye Fields unto vast assemblies. He had Travelled thro' all ye English Provinces in America, from Georgia (where I think he hath a Church & an Orphan House) down to York; and Preached in all or most of ye Towns he passed through. And in his Return he took a Circuit to Northampton, Springfield &c., & so through Connecticut Colony. When he Preached his Farewell Sermon in Boston Common, it was Judged by ye space of ground taken up by ye Auditory, that there could not be less than 20 Thousand (which I think is Mr. Whitefield's own account in his Journal) and some said 30 Thousand. He is a very Powerful Preacher, and has a Special Gift of Striking ye Passions & Commanding ye attention of his Hearers. The Minds of both Ministers & People were generally much moued & Quickened by his Preaching. After him in ye Winter Came another Itinerant, the Rev. Mr. Gilbert Tennant, (I think from ye Jerseys) who also Preached at Boston as ye other had done, & in Several Towns hereabout, and in his way down to York & back again, but I think not in ye Fields.

I think Mr. Whitefield was Educated in ye University of Oxford, & there he entered into holy Orders according to ye Canons of ye Church of England; but he Preaches to Christians of all Persuasions. It is now when I write this aboue a year since Mr. Whitefield was here, it being now Febr. 9th, 1741, and there hath ever since been an unu-

sual Impression upon ye Minds of People, gradually Increasing & Spreading from one Town & place to another, so that ye Common Conversation is upon matters of Religion, & of ye good work going on in ye Land by ye Extraordinary Effusions of ye Holy Spirit; which some say was never so before Experienced in this Land, or they belieue since ye Days of ye Apostles. To be sure there is abundance of Preaching by our Ministers; some go to other Towns & Preach in private Houses as well as in Publick, and evening Lectures are set up; I think there is Four Evening Lectures in Boston every week; and there is a wonderful disposition in people to hear. There has also in many places been very great additions to the Churches. Doubtless there will ere long be some Printed Account of it.

And yet I am at present of Opinion that things are by some Persons carried too far, contrary to ye design of ye Holy Spirit; as in some places where Laymen go about Exhorting (as they call it) & people crowd in large Assemblies to hear them; and many Cry out in ye Assembly & are so struck (as they call it) that for a time they loose their Senses & Reason, & ye like. But these things I must leave until time or further Light shall Inform my Judgment.

There was this Year an early frost that much Damnified ye Indian Corn in ye Field, and after it was Gathered, a long Series of wet weather & a very hard frost upon it, that damnified a great deal more, and so Spoiled it for Seed that next Spring there was but little good Seed to be had; the most hereabout planting twice over, to ye great damage of ye next Crop.

This Summer there went 5 Companies of Soldiers from this Province of 100 men each, to war with Spain. They went to Jamaica to Admiral Vernon, & so to Carthagena, Cuba &c. We hear many or ye most of them are dead.

This Winter 1740 was very hard, beyond what has been known this 40 Years; It began early & was very cold, attended with great Quantities of Snow. The Sea was very much Frozen, & there was abundance of travelling

upon ye Ice. There was great Travelling from Boston to Castle-William, and a Beaten Road in ye Snow kept Open, whereon in ye way stood two Tents for Entertainment: and Horses & Slays as well as foot Folks were Continually passing. And Sled-Loads of Hay came near Straight up from Spectacle Island. The Snow lay long, & made ye Spring backward; I saw some drifts of Snow upon ye Islands, not quite Consumed, the 2d or 3d Day of May following. Also this year a great number of persons thro' ye Province Combined to make ye Bills called ye Manufactory or Land-Bank-Bills.

1741.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters 63.
Capt. Thomas Wiswell	50	
James Blake	46	Town Clerk, James Blake
Capt. Preserved Capen	37	Town Treasurer, James
Capt. Daniel Preston	36	Blake
Mr. Robert Oliver	32	

Representatiue, Capt. Thomas Wiswell.

Constables, Thomas Pimer & Stephen Haws; and Josiah Blake, Ebenezer Clap Junr., Jonathan Clap, Ebenezer Dauenport & Zebulun Pierce paid their fine.

Births 44. Deaths 12. This year Janr. 22d Died Mr. John Trescott, in ye 91st year of his age. And on Aug. 1st before, Rebecca his Wife, in ye 90th year of her age.

This year there was a Scarcity of Grain of all sorts: Wheat Sold for 30s. per Bushel, Rye 22s., & Indian Corn for 20s. per Bushel paper Currency; which is about one fourth of ye Value of Proclamation Money.

1742.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters 49.
James Blake	43	
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	31	Town Clerk, James Blake
Capt. Daniel Preston	31	Town Treasurer, James
Capt. Preserved Capen	27	Blake
Capt. Robert Oliver	25	

Representatiue, Capt. Thomas Wiswell.

Constables, Samuel Bishop & John Pierce Junr.; and Preserved Baker, Nathanael Clap, John Trott, John Humfrey, James Baker, Benjamin Everenden & Thomas Baker Refused and paid their fines.

Births 35. Deaths 10.

This year Sept. 19th Died Mrs. Sarah Billing, Widow of Capt. Roger Billing, in ye 85th year of her age.

This year there was many Suits against some of ye Partners in ye Land-bank Scheme, by Virtue of an Act of Parliament, abolishing ye S^d Scheme, and Subjecting ye Partners or any one of them to ye Suit of any person that Should be possessed of ye S^d Bills & Demands them to be Exchanged for lawful Money, and ye demand be Denied or delayed, I think for ye space of Ten Days. This Winter was very moderate & but little Snow; I think we did not go out of ye Lane for ye Snow all Winter.

1743.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters.	
James Blake	45	56	Town Clerk, James Blake
Capt. Robert Spur	35		
Capt. Thomas Wiswell	34		Town Treasurer, James Blake
Capt. Joseph Bass	35	51	
Mr. Thomas Trott	28		

Representatiue, Capt. Thomas Wiswell.

Constables, Thomas Wiswell Junr. & Salter Searl; and Collector of Taxes, Thomas Lyon Junr.

Births 40. Deaths 12.

This year July 7th Died Mrs. Relief Leadbetter, Widow of Mr. Henry Leadbetter, in ye 93d year of her age; a Very Pious Woman, and much respected. This year on ye 29 and 30th Days of June, our new Meeting-house was Raised; and on ye last of S^d Days Ephraim Wales, Son of Jerijah & Sarah Wales, a young man of about 19 or 20 years of age, assisting in ye Raising, fell from one of ye Cross Beams down upon ye lower floor, (about 26 feet) and was taken up Speechless, and to appearance Senseless,

and so he remained from about 11 or 12 of ye clock to about 8 or 9 of ye same day at night & then Died; his Body being bruised & his Scull Fractured. The S^d Meeting-house is 68 feet & 46 feet broad, besides a Steeple at ye west end of 14 feet Square, and about 52 feet high to ye top of ye Tower, and 52 feet higher to ye Vane; with a Porch at ye East End of 14 feet Square. The Committee appointed by ye Town to Build ye S^d House are Mr. James Foster, James Blake, Benja. Bird Esqr., Mr. Thomas Bird and Capt. Thomas Wiswell; who agreed with Mr. Edwd. Kilton, Mr. Robert Royal & Mr. Saml. Gore, Carpenters, to undertake ye Building, & to find all ye Materials & do all ye workmanship, (Except ye Charge of Provisions for Raising, & some other Conditions about ye price of Boards &c.) for ye Sum of 3300 pounds old Tenor, & to be finished by October 1744.

1744.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters.	
Capt. Robert Spur	35	44	Town Clerk, James Blake
Mr. Thomas Trott	34		
James Blake	33		Town Treasurer, James Blake
Capt. Thomas Wiswell	30		
Capt. Joseph Bass	19	32	

Representatiue, Capt. Thos. Wiswell.

Constables, Edwd. Breck & Nathl. Langley.

Births 33. Deaths 15.

In ye Spring of this Year War was Proclaimed with France.

This year Apr. 4th Danl. Preston Junr. Son of Capt. Daniel Preston, being at Thomson's Island (with others) a Gunning, a Gun lying in a Cannoo with ye muzzle upon ye head board, accidentally went off, without any ones touching it, & he being either in another Cannoo, or on the Shore, was shot in ye head & died Immediately, in ye 23d year of his age.

In the Fall of this year Mr. Whitefield arriued from England, first at Portsmouth, & then came to Boston,

where he staid 'till next Spring, Preaching often in Seueral Meeting-houses in Boston, as Dr. Colmans, Mr. Webbs, Mr. Gees, Mr. Moreheads, & once or twice at Dr. Sewals; as also in Seueral Towns about Boston, as far as (I think) Attleborough; and in all places where he could be Receiued: But Ministers & People were generally Offended with his Conduct & manner of Preaching, but some were most firmly attached to him, and endeavoured to defend all that he either said or did; which caused much Writing and Disputing; and many Letters were by the Publick Prints sent to Mr. Whitefield, Charging him with many faults in his Preaching & Conduct that he has never as yet cleared himself of.

This year June ye 3d on a Sabbath day morning a little before our meeting began (I being then in ye Meeting-house) was a Considerable Shock of an Earthquake, that shook ye Meeting-house much, & throwed down some stone wall near by, as well as at other places, & I think some Chimnies at Boston; but not so terrible as that on Oct. 29th, 1727, when ye ground broke at Newbury & Hampton & I think other places; and was often repeated tho' in a lesser degree than ye first Shock, for several months together.

This year Decr. 2d, Sabbath Day, we met first in ye new Meeting-house, the House being quite or very near finished. The whole Cost of ye House that was paid for in money, (besides ye time that ye Committee gaue) amounted to £3567 10 11. Mr. Bowman Preached a Sermon Suitable to ye Occasion on Psal. 84. 1. as likewise upon leaving ye old house ye Sabbath before on Rev. 3. 3.

1745.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters.
James Blake	56	84
Mr. Thos. Trott	51	Town Clerk, James Blake
Capt. Robt. Spur	51	Town Treasurer, James Blake
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	49	
Capt. Joseph Bass	45	

Representatiue, Capt. Thos. Wiswell.
Constables, Zebadiah Williams & Saml. Pierce.
Births 35. Deaths 16.

This year Octr. 21st Died Thos. Tilestone Esqr., aged 70 years & 2 Days. He had been a Justice of ye Peace for I suppose 7 or 8 years; and before that he had gone through I think all the Military steps from an Ensign to Lievt. Colonel, and had been often out in ye Service. He had been Representatiue about Ten years, though not all successively; and a Selectman by times 24 years.

This year ye Province of ye Massachusetts-Bay having ye winter before Projected an Expedition against the French Settlements at ye Island of Cape Britton, and Raised about 3000 men, with several Vessels of War, Transports, and all sorts of Warlike Stores, with ye assistance of about 1000 men more from New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island &c.; ours set sail from Boston ye 24th of March, 1744–5, & after waiting at Canso for ye Removal of ye Ice arrived at Cape Britton ye first day of May, where meeting with Commodore Warren with about 7 or 8 Men of War that were Ordered there from Several parts, they besieged the City & Forts of Lovisburgh; the Men of War blocking up ye Harbour, and taking many Vessels bound there, some of them from ye East Indies & ye South Sea exceeding Rich, and among ye Rest one of ye French Kings Ships of War of 64 Guns & 500 men, called ye Vigilant; a fine new Ship: and ye land army at ye same time Cannonading & Bombarding ye Town, which held out till ye 17th of June 1745, and then Capitulated, delivering all but their Personal Estates into the hands of ye English, and were themselves transported home to France. There were but very few of our Men slain in Battle Considering ye great Strength of the place & ye desperateness of ye adventure; but after our men had taken Possession of ye City & Island, a mortal Fever Seized them, and Continued all ye Summer and most part of ye Winter following, that carried off multitudes; most that went from hereabouts that I knew either died there, or in their passage home, or soon

after they came home; 'tis said there died of our New England Forces about 1500 men.

Our Forces kept the place until May following and then were Relieved by Forces from England, except those that Listed there. Wm. Peperil Esqr. was General of our Land Forces, who for his good service was made a Baronet, and both he & Govr. Shirley were made Colonels of the two Regiments that were to be raised in America, & Joyned with ye old English Forces, for ye Garrisoning & defending the place. A more full Account (and I suppose ye best Extant) may be seen in Mr. Prince's Printed Sermon, Preached on ye Thanksgiving Day for that Victory, Thursday, July 18, 1745.

1746.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
James Blake	45	Voters 67.
Capt. Robert Spur	40	
Mr. Thos. Trott	39	
Mr. Thos. Bird	35	
Mr. Richard Hall	42	Voters 65.

Town Treasurer, James Blake. Town Clerk, James Blake.

Representatiue, Capt. Thomas Wiswell.

Births 32. Deaths 13.

Constables, Thomas Kilton & Timothy Foster.

This Summer & Fall proved very troublesome, not only by ye Indians (oftentimes led on by ye French) coming in many small parties, & sometimes in Considerable numbers of Several Hundreds, & falling upon our frontier Plantations, from East to West, and Surprizing, & in a Barbarous manner (many times) Butchering, killing & leading Captive a Considerable number of Men, Women and Children, (tho' not without some loss to themselves); but also by a strong French Fleet coming from France against us, consisting of about 30 Men of War, & 67 Transports, besides Land Forces, Forty thousand Arms, 25 Mortars, 50 Brass Field Pieces &c.; many, & I suppose ye greatest

part of them, arrived at Jebucta in Nova Scotia about ye middle of September, having set sail from Rochel or Rochford June ye 11th. There being also about 2000 French & Indians assembled at Menis. Fourteen of ye Men of War were Ships of ye Line from 50 to 74 Guns. They had on Board about 8000 Disciplined Troops, besides those assembled at Menis, and many more of ye French in Nova Scotia would have Joyned them. This Powerful Armament spread its Terror in all ye English Northern Colonies, & especially in ye Massachusetts & New Hampshire. Great preparations were made to Receive them; as Repairing ye Batteries at Boston & at Castle William; and the work was Judged so necessary that it was prosecuted even on the Sabbath Days: Hulks were prepared to stop up ye Channel by sinking them therein: And ye Militia in ye Country (I suppose generally about one half of ye Regiments) drawn into Boston and ye lower Towns. Great Expectation there was of Admiral Lesstock with a large Fleet from England, to follow ye Enemy and Relieve us, but by means of contrary winds that great Expectation & our high-raised Hopes failed us. But tho' outward means failed us, yet God in his Providence was pleased to work wonderfully for our Preservation, and defeat ye well concerted designs of our Enemies, and to turn their wise Counsels into foolishness. He sent sickness among them that carried off many of their men, & their Chief Commander & (I think) ye Second also died: He also sent Terrible Storms both before their Arrival, & after their Sailing again out of ye Harbour of Jebucta, that Cast away some of their Ships & disabled others, so that being dispirited they Returned to France without striking one blow, or doing anything of Consequence (Except taking some Merchant Vessels upon their Passage) and that in a poor shattered condition; many of their Vessels as well as Men coming short home. For which deliverance God's name be praised. The best Account of this Affair that I know of is in a Thanksgiving Sermon Preached by Mr. Prince, Novr. 27, 1746, and afterwards Printed, to which I Refer.

This year an Expedition was formed against Canada, & many Soldiers in this & other Provinces Listed for ye Kings Service, but ye Fleet in England designed for that service being Imployed other ways, the Expedition was laid aside, & ye men dismissed in ye fall 1747.

1747.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
Mr. Richard Hall	66	Voters 74.
Mr. Thomas Bird	48	
James Blake	41	
Capt. Robert Spur	48	Voters 74.
Mr. Thos. Trott	40	

Town Clerk, James Blake.
Town Treasurer, James Blake.
Constables, Joseph Wales & Saml. How.
Representatiue, Capt. Thos. Wiswell.
Births 30. Deaths 26.

The last winter 1746, some of ye members of this Church that had Separated from it, upon ye Commotion that Mr. Whitefield & those Itinerants that followed him had raised in ye Country about Religion; and for their Separation, & Injurious Treatment of ye Minister the Revd. Mr. Jona. Bowman and ye whole Church, were laid under the Censure of Admonition, & forbid to come to Communion until Repentance & Reformation; Pressed ye Church to Joyn with them in calling a Council of Churches to Hear & Advise upon their matters of Complaint & Grievance; which after several debates ye Church agreed to, & also to bear all ye Charge of ye Council. The members were Isaac How, Edward Foster, Ebenezer Withington, Timothy Tilestone, Naphtali Pierce & Eben. Davenport, together with Benja. Bird Esqr., who had been excommunicated by ye Church for Intemperate drinking, & thought himself very hardly dealt with, as also did ye Separate Brethren, of whose party ye S^d Mr. Bird was, and a Chief Leader among them. It was agreed between ye Church & ye S^d Brethren, that there should be Ten Churches sent

to, and that each party should Choose five, (where they pleased) & if any of one side failed, ye same No. of ye other side should be taken off; & that ye Churches should be desired to send their Elder & one Messenger. Accordingly ye Church Chose Mr. Walter of Roxbury, Mr. Barnard of Marblehead, Mr. Prescott of Salem, Mr. Gay of Hingham, & Mr. Tailor of Milton; and ye other party Chose Mr. Leonard of Plymouth, Mr. Weld of Attleborough, Mr. Hobby of Reading, Mr. Rogers of Ipswich, & Mr. Cotton of Halifax; (Three of whom, viz. Leonard, Weld & Cotton, had at ye desire of ye S^d^ Party, assembled in a Private Council at one of their Houses several times before this), who together with their Delegates (Judge Dudley being with Mr. Walter) accordingly met at Dorchester, Tuesday, May 19th, 1747, all but Mr. Rogers of ye agrieved Brethrens part (as they called themselves), and Mr. Gay went off upon ye Churches side to keep ye number equal. The Council being formed sat chiefly in the Meeting-house where was a Publick Hearing, & a great throng of People, many from other Towns. Mr. Walter was Moderator, but Mr. Barnard was his Assistant, who chiefly managed, by reason of ye Infirmities of old age rendering ye business too tedious for Mr. Walter. The Council sat 4 Days, beginning on Tuesday & ending on Friday. They Patiently heard all that ye Parties had to say, and in their Result, Justified Mr. Bowman & ye Church in all their actions, & Condemned ye S^d^ Party & advised them & ye S^d^ Mr. Bird to Submit & Return to ye Church &c. Since which ye Church has been quiet, which before was continually disturbed with Letters & Charges from ye S^d^ Brethren, & many Church meetings thereabout. But none of ye S^d^ Party haue yet followed ye advice of the Council, but have till lately continued their Meetings at ye House of ye S^d^ Eben. Withington; where the S^d^ Mr. Bird's Son (a young man that had staid 3 years at ye College & ye 4th year was Expelled being of their party) Preached to them until last Fall, and now is ordained (as we hear) by two New-Light Ministers, (as

they are called) over a Separate party in Dunstable. I think at this present our Separate party have no Constant Meeting. And two days ago, viz. March 9th, 1747, the S^d^ Ebenezer Withington at whose House they use to meet Deceased. I think ye Charge of ye Council cost ye Church something more than One Hundred Pounds old tenor.

This last Summer 1747, two or three Men of War came to Bay-Vert (between Cape Bretton and ye Mouth of Canada River in Nova-Scotia) and Landed Cannon, Mortars &c., for an attack (it is said) upon Annapolis Royal, Expecting a Fleet from France to Joyn them. But God in his Providence wrought for our Preservation, and again wonderfully delivered us from ye Distresses such a Fleet might have brought upon us. For on ye 3d of May, 1747, the Admirals Anson & brave Warren with a Squadron of about 14 or 15 Ships of ye Line, met with ye S^d^ Fleet off Cape Finisterre, Consisting of 38 Ships, and took 6 Men of War, & 6 East India Ships of force, besides many of ye Transports, and so wholly frustrated their design upon us. 'Tis said that ye French Men of War went to Convoy ye French East India Fleet to a certain Latitude, and then with a number of Transports Loaded with all sorts of warlike stores were to proceed to Canada, (or Bay-Vert) in order from thence to fit out an Army with those they carried with them, to Joyn ye S^d^ Fleet in Attacking Cape Bretton, or rather Annapolis Royal, or some of our Settlements. About 7 or 8 of ye Transports with their Soldiers arrived at Canada, the rest were taken by ye Admirals aforesaid, with a vast Treasure in ye East India Ships, and carried into England. Some accounts mention above Thirty Tons of Silver, and other Treasure beyond account.

Also on ye 14th of October, brave Admiral Hawk, with a Squadron of 14 Ships of ye Line, near Cape Finisterre, met with a French Fleet of Merchant-Men, about 180 Sail, bound to ye West Indies, Guarded by 8 French Men of War of ye Line, and took six of them, besides many Transports, and Immediately sent Express to our Men of

War in ye West India Islands, who with many Privateers Immediately Sail'd and Intercepted & took abundance of them. The News Papers this latter part of ye winter are filled with accounts of ye S^d Fleets disaster, & how many are carried into one place & another, both in Europe & America. The 2 French Men of War that Escaped were one of 80 Guns & one of 74, & both returned to France, & left ye Merchant Men to shift for themselves. The French Men of War taken were ships of 74 Guns Three of them, Two of them 64 & one 50. It is said ye French fought bravely as long as they were able to stand it.

1748.

Town Officers Chosen March 14th, 1747, for the Year 1748, are as follows:

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
Mr. Richard Hall	85	Voters 94.
James Blake	57	
Capt. Robert Spur	55	
Mr. Thos. Bird	55	
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	43	Voters 74.

Town Clerk, James Blake.

Town Treasurer, James Blake.

Constables { Hopestill Withington, Henry Payson.

May, 1748, Representatiue, Capt. Robert Spur.

Births about 33. Deaths about 10.

In ye Summer of this year a Cessation of Arms with France (without Day) was Published here, and in ye fall of ye Year the same with Spain. The War with Spain began Anno 1739, and ye War with France began Anno 1744, in ye Spring, when ye French from Cape Bretton supprized & took Canso, before the Garrison at Canso was apprized of ye War. And ye next Summer, 1745, New-England provoked thereby took Cape Bretton. See Anno 1745.

This year Grain was Scarce & Dear. Indian Corn sometimes 32s. per Bushel; Rye 46s. & Wheat about 3

pounds per Bushel; Flour about 10 pounds per Hund., in old tenor Bills, which now are about ye 7th part ye value of Proclamation Money. The reason of ye high price of grain was S^d to be ye sending it off to ye French Plantations upon ye cessation of arms. This year Capt. Spur was made Just. Peace.

1749.

Town Officers Chosen March 13th, 1748, for the year 1749, are as follows:

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	
Mr. Richard Hall	60	Voters 68.
Capt. Thos. Wiswell	38	
Mr. Thos. Bird	37	
Robt. Spur Esqr.	36	
Mr. Thos. Trott	43	Voters 80.

Town Clerk, Mr. Noah Clap.

Town Treasurer, Mr. Noah Clap.

Constables, David Clap & Saml. Jones; and Hopestill Leeds paid his fine.

May, 1749, Representatiue, Capt. Thomas Wiswell.

Births 36. Deaths 19.

In November last, I Relapsed into a Chronical Disease I have laboured under for (I think) aboue 30 years since it first began; occasioned at first (as I conclude) by over heats, wet & cold, in my laying out ye wild & unimproved Lands belonging to ye Proprietors of this Town, now part of ye Town of Stoughton; and gradually prevailing upon me at times; and sometimes bringing of me weak & low, & confined for a considerable time together: but none of my Paroxysms have brought me so weak & low as this; I having been brought near unto ye gates of ye Grave, and am yet but weak & low, and have been ever since confined to my Room; it being now when I write this March 22d, 1748: And how it will still please God to deal with me I know not, but pray that I may have Grace to yield not only sincere active obedience to his Will, but also passive obedience; and that he will fit & prepare me for his good

Will and Pleasure. My Disease is very Painful, attended with a grievous Stomach sickness, and Casting up large quantities of Water &c. The Seat of it is in ye Stomach, by some called the Cardialgia.

By Reason of this my sickness I was forced to be absent from this last Anniversary Town-Meeting, which I had not been before (as I suppose) for ye space of 30 years or more. And the Town left me out of all Publick business, after I had served them (I hope I may say faithfully according to my ability) as a Town Treasurer, Selectman and Assessor for ye space of 25 Years successively, and as Town Clerk for ye space of 24 Years successively; I having in that time wrote in the second Book of ye Towns Records 208 pages which finished the Book; and have begun the Third Book of Records, & wrote therein 119 pages; besides making Tables for both ye two first Books of Records, in an Intire Book by itself. I have also in the Treasurers business made, begun & wrote out, two large folio Books of Accompts, Containing about 224 folios or 448 Pages each; and the major part of the Third Folio Book of about ye same bigness. Besides large Bundles of Tax Lists, Tables to make Rates by, Warrants for Town Meetings, Divisions of ye Highways, Plans of Land sold by ye Town &c. All which is more (I suppose) by many times over than any one man before me has wrote & done for the Town. When I first came into ye business, I found many things in poor order; but I set myself Industriously (according to my ability) to Reform and Methodise things in ye best order I could. And though the Business was not profitable; I spending a great deal of time, & doing a great many things I was never paid for, especially in former years: yet since I spent the prime of my time in ye Towns service, when I might have Imployed it more Profitably otherways, & now am advanced in years, & so infirm & weakly, as not to be able to do any other Business; to leave me out (not for any suggestion of male-administration, but) only to help a young man to some Business; I cannot but look upon as ungratefull in ye Town: and yet I would

not Impute it to ye whole Town, the matter being carried chiefly (as I suppose) by a discontented Factious party.

This year May 10th, Peace with France & Spain was Proclaimed at Boston.

And this Summer July 12th Cape Bretton was Restored to ye French again. And ye French Govr. at Cape Bretton sent to Jebucta & took up the Body of the Duke de Anville, Commander of the French Jebucta Fleet beforementioned, and on ye 23d of August Buryed it with great Pomp and Solemnity at Lovisbourg.

Sepr. 11. Govr. Shirley sailed in ye Boston Man of War, Capt. Pierce Commander, for London, and Returned again Aug. 7th, 1753.

Sepr. 18th. Arrived here Capt. Montague in the Mermaid Man of War, being 5 Weeks from England, and brought this Provinces money to reimburse ye Charges of taking Cape Bretton, being £183649 2 7½ Sterling; some Charges and the Insurance for bringing to be paid out of it.

This Summer was the Severest Drought in this Country, as has ever been known in ye Memory of ye oldest Persons among us. It was a dry Spring, and by ye latter end of May the grass was burnt up so that ye ground looked white; and it was ye 6th Day of July before any Rain (to speak of) came. The Earth was dried like Powder to a great depth, and many Wells, Springs, Brooks & small Rivers were dried up, that were never known to fail before. And the Fish in some of ye Rivers died. The Pastures were so scorched that there was nothing green to be seen, and the Cattle waxed poor, & by their lowing seemed to call upon their Owners for Relief, who could not help them. Although the dry Grass was Eaten so close as that there was but a few thin spires to be seen, yet several Pastures took fire, and burnt fiercely. My Pasture took fire near ye Barn (by a Boys droping a Coal of fire, as he was carrying fire to ye water-side) and tho' there seemed to be so little Grass, yet what there was, and ye ground, was so dry that it blazed and flushed like

Gun-Powder, and run very fast along ye ground, and in one place burnt some fence; and we were forced to work hard to keep it from ye Barn, & to extinguish it; having ye help of sundry men that happened to be here. It spread over about half an Acre of Ground before we could stop it; and where there was lumps of Cow-dung it would burn till ye whole lump was Consumed, & burn a hole in ye ground; and we were forced to use much water to quench it. There was a great scarcity of Hay, being but a very little cut, of ye first Crop; & salt marsh failed near as much as the English Meadow. English Hay was then sold for £3 & £3 10 old tenor per Hundred. Barley & Oats were so Pinched that many had not much more than their seed again, & many cut down their S^d Grain before it was ripe for Fodder. Flax almost wholly failed, as also Herbs of all sorts; and Indian Corn Rolled up & wilted; and there was a melancholly prospect of the greatest Dearth that ever was known in this Land. In the time of our fears & Distress, the Government ordered a Day of Public Fasting & Prayer; and God was graciously pleased to hear & Answer our Prayers, even in a very remarkable manner: for about ye 6th of July the course of ye weather altered; and there came such plentiful & seasonable Rains, as quite altered ye face of ye Earth; and that Grass which we generally concluded was wholly dead, and could not come again under several Years, was revived, and there was a good second Crop of Mowing; it looking more like ye Spring than that season of ye Year: and ye Indian Corn recovered, & there was a very good Harvest. And whereas it was thought in ye fall of the Year that a multitude of Cattle must Die for want of Meat, insomuch as they sent & fetched Hay from England; yet God in his Providence Ordered us a moderate Winter, and we were carried comfortably through it; and I did not hear of many, if any, Cattle that died. But by reason of so many Cattle being killed off last fall, Beef, Mutton & Butter are now in May, 1750, very dear: Butter is 7s. 6d. old tenor per Pound. Upon ye Coming of ye Rains & Renewing of

ye Earth last fall, the Government appointed a Day of Publick Thanksgiving.

This Summer June 18th was said to be ye Hottest Day that was ever known in ye Northerly part of America.

This Year Apr. 12, Died Thomas Mawdsley in ye 83d year of his age. And Content Mason, Widow of John Mason, in ye 89th or 90th year of her age, Apr. 27th. And Janr. 8th Henry Payson Died by Suicide: Hanged himself in his Cider-Mill.

Town Officers for ye Year 1750.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters.
Mr. Richard Hall	60	89
Capt. Thomas Wiswell	46	
Mr. Edward Breck	52	65
Mr. Noah Clap	46	
Mr. Samuel How	39	68

Town Clerk, Mr. Noah Clap.

Town Treasurer, Mr. Noah Clap.

Constables, Roger Clap & Jonas Tolman; and Edward White & Purchase Capen paid their Fines.

Representative, Capt. Thomas Wiswell.

Births 36. Deaths 37.

This Year Died Mr. James Blake, who wrote this Book thus far, on ye 4th Day of December, between 8 & 9 of ye Clock in ye Evening, in ye 63d Year of his Age: he had been in a very poor state of Health, ever since his Relapse mentioned in ye Year 1749. He was a very useful & serviceable man & often Imployed in ye Town & Proprietors Business, & did a great deal for them, as may be seen by what he wrote himself in ye aforesaid Year, 1749. He was much Esteemed by men of Learning for his Learning & Piety.

This Year Mr. Richard Hall was Chosen Deacon of this Church & accepted. And Mr. Samuel Pierce & Mr. Edward Preston were Chosen before & Refused.

Town Officers for ye Year 1751.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters.
Mr. Edward Breck	41	57
Mr. Noah Clap	40	
Dea. Richard Hall	39	
Mr. Samuel How	33	
Capt. Thomas Wiswell	34	63

Town Clerk, Mr. Noah Clap.

Town Treasurer, Mr. Noah Clap.

Constables, John Wales & Samuel Withington Junr.; and James Trott, Elisha Tilestone, Caleb Bradly, Thomas Bird Junr., Jonas Humfrey Junr., Pelatiah Hall & Joseph How paid their Fines.

Representatiue, Mr. Thomas Trott.

Births 24. Deaths 29.

This Year Decr. 10th Died Mrs. Mary Tilestone, Widow of Col. Thomas Tilestone. And Dea. Nathaniel Topliff Decr. 15th, in ye 60th Year of his Age.

In ye latter part of this Year & ye beginning of ye next was a very Dying time in Dorchester, with a Pleurisy & Nervous Fever, few living that were Seized with it.

This Year there was an Act of Parliament for altering ye Style from old to new, and that ye 1st Day of January should be ye first Day of ye Year. The 11 Days odds were taken from Sepr. 1752.

1752.

This Year Janr. 11th about 5 in the Morning, Died Mrs. Ruth Blake ye Widow of Dea. James Blake, in ye 90th year of her age. She had no Distemper, but died of old age.

Janr. 23d, 1752, was kept by ye Church in Dorchester as a Day of Prayer & Fasting, upon ye Account of ye Sickness & Mortality that prevailed amongst us. It was a Pleurisy & Nervous Fever together; when ye Pleurisy went off, ye Nervous set in, & very few Recouered. There died 15 Persons with it in less than 2 months, besides what Died of other Distempers, ye most of them well hearty Persons & many of them in their middle age.

Some time last Year there was a Petition put in to ye General Court by John Foster Esqr. & others of Attleborough, Norton & Easton, Praying that ye Court would Run ye Colony Line from Accord Pond to a Stake as they said set up by Nathanael Woodward & Solomon Saffery. The Proprietors of Dorchester & Stoughton Chose Robert Spur Esqr., Mr. James Foster & Samuel Blake a Committee to Defend against their Petition, who in Conjunction with ye Committees from Stoughton & Wrentham drew up a Reply to their Petition & put it in to ye Honble. Board, who Voted a Hearing of all Parties, who on ye 9th of Janr., 1752, were admitted, & heard by Counsel for & against ye Petition & then withdrew, and ye Honble. Board after some Debate thereon Voted almost to a man to Dismiss their Petition, and sent ye Vote down to ye Honble. House for Concurrence, who also Voted a Hearing, & on ye 11th of Janr. ye Parties were admitted, & heard by Counsel, and ye House after a large Debate Voted to Dismiss their Petition also, by a very Clear & full Vote, which was a very mortifying stroke to ye Petitioners, they being very sure of having their Petition Granted, which if they had had would have given them many Thousands of Acres of Land from Stoughton & Wrentham, for from Angle Tree where ye Colony Line now runs to, to ye place where they Petitioned to haue it run to, is as it is said aboue Two miles, so that had they brought ye Colony Line 2 miles Northward from Angle Tree it must Consequently have taken a very large Quantity of our Land & given it to them.

Town Officers for ye Year 1752.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Votes.	Voters.
Dea. Richard Hall	60	63
Mr. Edward Breck	53	
Mr. Noah Clap	51	
Mr. Samuel How	41	
Robert Spur Esqr.	32	62

Town Clerk, Mr. Noah Clap.

Town Treasurer, Mr. Noah Clap.

Constables, John Baker & William Marion; and Thomas Harris, Edward Preston & Abijah White, paid their Fines.

Representatiue, Mr. Thomas Trott.

Births 33. Deaths 44.

June 18th, 1752. The new Bell * was hung in Dorchester Meeting House; It was a Gift of the Proprietors of ye Common & undivided Lands late in ye Township of Dorchester, and now in ye Township of Stoughton, to ye Town of Dorchester; it arrived from Bristol in England ye week before. It weighs 785 Pounds, or in Gross weight 701 Pounds; it cost ye Proprietors Fifty Pounds, Sterling money. The Committee Chosen to Purchase it were Robert Spur Esqr., Mr. James Foster & Samuel Blake.

This Year ye Small-Pox went through Boston, which it had not done for 21 Years before, so that there were many Thousands to have ye Distemper. There Died of it there 561 Persons, 31 by Inoculation & 530 ye common way. Of those that were Inoculated there Died about one out of 85, and of those that took it ye natural way hardly one out of Ten; it did not spread much in ye Country Towns (except Charlestown) though it was in many of them; there were Seven Persons had it in this Town, one of whom Died, namely Robert Searl, a man about 80 Years of age. There were according to Accounts Two Thousand Persons Removed out of Boston, into ye Country Towns to escape ye Distemper, which was far more than ever were known to Remove at any time heretofore.

This Year Novr. 24th Died Capt. Thomas Wiswell, often a Representative & Selectman, in ye 61st Year of his age.

Town Officers for ye Year 1753.

Selectmen & Assessors.	Voters.
Dea. Richard Hall Edward Breck Robert Spur Esqr. Noah Clap Samuel How	46

* See Appendix, Note J.

Town Clerk, Mr. Noah Clap.

Town Treasurer, Mr. Noah Clap.

Constables, Samuel Bradley, who removing out of Town, John Beighton was hired to serue for ye whole Town; and Joseph Clap, Daniel Tolman Junr., Ebenezer Tolman, Desire Tolman, John Preston & John Robinson Junr., paid their Fines.

Representatiue, Robert Spur Esqr.

Births 36. Deaths 19.

This Year Febr. 12th Died Mrs. Ruth Spur ye Wife of Mr. John Spur, in ye 32d Year of her age. And May 22d Died Mrs. Wait Blake ye Widow of Mr. James Blake, in ye 69th Year of her age.

Septr. 23d, 1753. Began to Read ye Scriptures in Dorchester Meeting House.

Octr. 7th. Ebenezer Cox going off from ye Shore near ye Wharf in Dorchester in a small Canoo, to go aboard a Boat lying off, in his return back overset ye Canoo & was drowned.

APPENDIX.

☞ **In consequence of delay attendant upon the collection of materials for the Appendix, the earlier points illustrated here are not noted in their proper place in the body of the work, but the references to each will readily be found on noting the *years* under which the annotations occur.**

NOTE A. 1630.

The very important part taken by the people of *Dorchester* in England, in colonizing Massachusetts Bay, renders superfluous all speculation in regard to the selection of that name for one of the first Bay towns. As early as 1624 some persons belonging to Dorchester sent over fishermen, and made provision for a fishery at Cape Ann, and two years after, say 1626, this company of Dorchester fishermen removed up to Naumkeag (now Salem). In 1627 Sir Henry Roswell, John Endicott, Sir John Young, Thomas Southcote, John Humphrey and Simon Whitcomb, all of Dorchester and vicinity, obtained from the Plymouth Council a grant of the whole of Massachusetts Bay. Mr. John White, a zealous Clergyman of Dorchester, writes to the Salem people to remain, promising to send them more men and provisions; and Mr. Endicott, one of the Dorchester patentees, with a large number of planters and servants, arrived at Naumkeag in 1628. Roswell, Young and Southcote had in view trade with the Indians, fisheries and other purposes of profit; but when it was concluded to make it a religious settlement,

they are no more heard of; but we find Mr. White, in 1627, at London, very active in enlisting Crudock, Saltonstall, Venn and others in the undertaking; and in March, 1628, Charles I. granted a charter to this company. All these well known facts prove that Dorchester, in Dorset, was the mother of the Bay colony; and the great emigration of 1630 included many persons from that town.

NOTE B. 1632.

As the record of the first public act in relation to temperance in Dorchester, will be found interesting to many of our readers, we give the following copy from the Records of the Court:—

"A Court holden at Boston, August 7, 1632." "It is ordered that ye remainder of Mr. Allen's Strong-Water, being estimated aboute 2 Gallandes, shall be delivered into ye handes of the Deacons of Dorchester for the benefit of the poore there, for his selling of it dyvers tymes to such as were drunke by it, he knowing thereof."

NOTE C. 1633.

The first Meeting-House of Dorchester was built in 1631, and was situated near the corner of Pleasant and Myrtle Streets, on "Allen's Plain," at the North part of the Town. It was one story, or about twelve feet in height. As the best houses of the colonists were constructed of logs, and thatched, it may be fairly inferred that their house of worship was of the same material. It was surrounded by palisadoes; was the depository of military stores, and a place of resort in case of alarm from the Indians. A sentinel was kept at the gate every night; and thither the people carried their plate and most valuable articles every evening

to be preserved in safety. On Nov. 3, 1634, an order was passed "to build stairs on the outside, and the loft to be laid, and a window in the loft."—*Town Records.*

NOTE D. 1633.

"An Agreement made by the whole consent and vote of the Plantation, made Mooneday 8th of October 1633.

"Imprimus. It is ordered, that for the generall good and well ordering of the affayres of the plantation, there shall be every Mooneday before the Court by eight of the clocke in the morning, and presently upon the *beating of the drum*, a generall meeteing of the inhabitants of the plantation, at the *Meeting House*, there to settle and sett downe such orders as may tend to the generall good as aforesayd, and every man to be bound thereby without gainsaying or resistance."—*Town Records, Vol.* 1, *p.* 6.

The form of municipal government or Town organization, which has prevailed throughout New England for more than two centuries, contributing greatly to the well being and good order of society, is believed to have had its origin in Dorchester, in the vote transcribed above.—It may be remarked here, that the first *General Court*, by delegates, was holden at Boston, May 14, 1634, O. S., on which occasion Dorchester sent three members, viz. Israel Stoughton, William Phelps and George Hull.

NOTE E. 1633.

"Monday, 3d Nov., 1633. It is generally agreed that Mr. Israel Stoughton shall build a Water Mill if he see cause."—*T. R., Vol.* 1, *p.* 7.

"6th January, Mooneday, 1633–4. Item. It is ordered

that Mr. Israel Stoughton shall have the priviledge of a weare at Naponset adjoyning to his mill, and shall enjoy it from the sayd weare to the bridge where now it is over the said Naponset without interruption; as also between the sayde weare and the salt water; that none shall crosse the river with a net or otherwise to the prejudice of the said weare; and the s^d^ Mr. Stoughton is to sell the Alewives there taken to the Plantation at 5s. per thousand; and that all fish besides that is taken thence the plantation to have at reasonable rates before any other plantation. And the said Mr. Stoughton is to afford the said alewives at a lower rate than 5s. per thousand if he can. Item, the said Mr. Stoughton doth promise not to sell away the sayd mill without the consent of the plantation first had and received."

T. R., Vol. I. p. 9.

NOTE F. 1639.

Thompson's Island, in Boston Harbor, was first occupied in 1624, by David Thompson, a Scotchman, sent over with others to Piscataqua (now Portsmouth) by Gorges and Mason the year before, to establish a fishery at that place. Thompson had become acquainted with this Island during a trip to Plymouth. He left Piscataqua and took up his abode upon it six years before the Bay was settled; and after the Colony was fully established he procured a confirmation of his title to the Island from the General Court.

Saggamore of Aggawam's Deposition concerning Thompson's Island.

"I Saggamore of Aggawam testify that in the yeare 1619 or thereabouts as I remember, I went in my owne person with Mr. David Thompson and then he took possession of the Iland before Dorchester, he likeing no other

but that because of the smale Riuer, and then no Indians upon it or any Wigwam or planting, nor hath been by any Endians inhabitted or claymed since, but two years agoe by Harmben an old Endian of Dorchester. Witness my hand, this 13th of July, before Mr. Greenleafe, 1620 / 50.

"Witness, EDMUND GREENLEAFE.

"SAGAMORE ~~~~~~~~ OF AGGAWAM."

"This is a true copy, compared with its originall on file, as attests EDWARD RAWSON, *Sec'y.*"

Archives of Salem.]

The subsequent grant of the Island to the Town of Dorchester is thus recorded.

"Tomson's Iland is granted to the Inhabitants of Dorchester, to inioy to them and their heirs and successors which shall inhabit there forever, payinge the yearly Rent of twelue pence to the Treasurer for ye time beinge.—At Newtowne by a generall Court held there 2d, 9th, 1637."

T. R., Vol. 2, *p.* 37.

Petition from Dorchester to the General Court.

"To the honoured Generall Court now assembled at Boston, the humble petition of the Town of Dorchester.

"WHEREAS this honoured Court formerly granted unto the Towne of Dorchester the Iland called Thompson's Iland, and the inhabitants of the said Towne long since granted the same towards the maintenance of a free schoole there forever: And whereas this Court at the last Session thereof vppon the petition of Mr. John Thompson for the said Iland (Mr. Mavericke testifying on his behalfe, that in the yeare 1626 Mr. David Thompson his father took possession thereof as a vacuum domicilium, and dyeinge, the

said John Thompson when he came to age demanded the same) granted unto the said John Thompson the said Iland forever. The which we thinke this Court would not have so granted unto him before the Towne had been called, and libertie given them to have answered and pleaded or otherwise dealt with the said John Thompson about the said Iland; but that the jurisdiction thereof, or some other important reasons for common good, moved the Court thereunto: We therefore, not doubting of the justice and favor of the Courte towards vs and the furtherance of a free schoole amongst vs (which otherwise is like to faile) doe humblie desire this honoured Courte to grant vs some Iland (within the Courte's power to grant) which may help vs towards the maintenance of a free schoole in lieu of that which is now taken away, and not only wee but posteritie while time shall last will have cause to bless you, your justice and piety in advancing learninge.

"And so we rest

"Your humble Petitioners,

"THE INHABITANTS OF DORCHESTER."

"Subscribed for them all by the Selectmen,

JOHN WISWELL,
THOS. JONES,
WILLIAM BLAKE,
GEO. WEEKES,
JOSEPH FARNWORTH,
WILLIAM CLARKE,
WILLIAM SUMNER."

1648.

On the Petition is written what follows, viz.:

"The Dept's are willing to answer this pet. when the

Towne presents that which is fit to be given and before our honoured Magistrate's consent therevnto."

NOTE G. 1662.

"The 7. 1. 1661–2.

"The day above sayd it was voted whether there should be a Committee chosen for to consider what may be best to be done both for the Towne of Dorchester and our neighbours at *Unquetie*,* in reference to a township amongst themselves, and the vote was affirmative. At the same time there was chosen for the Committee, William Sumner, John Capen, John Minott."

T. R., Vol. 2, *p.* 48.

NOTE H. 1691.

It is believed that the 46 soldiers alluded to under the date 1690, included inhabitants from Dorchester, Milton, and what is now Stoughton, Canton, Sharon and Foxborough; as Major Walley, who commanded the land forces under Sir William Phipps, states the whole number of soldiers at 1300. Walley speaks of a Capt. *Minott* (a Dorchester name), but the General Court, in granting to the Dorchester people the Township of Ashburnham, state the grant to have been made in consideration of services of soldiers under *Capt. John Withington* in 1690.

NOTE I. 1701.

The following is nearly a literal translation of the celebrated epitaph on Governor Stoughton's tomb-stone. There are very few of the inhabitants of Dorchester who have not

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* Now Milton.

perused the Latin inscription on the well-known marble monument; and to them, as well as to others, it is thought this English version of it will be acceptable.

Here lies

WILLIAM STOUGHTON, ESQUIRE,

Lieutenant, afterwards Governor,
Of the Province of Massachusetts in New England,
also
Chief Judge of the Superior Court
in the same Province.
A man of wedlock unknown,
Devout in Religion,
Renowned for Virtue,
Famous for Erudition,
Acute in Judgment,
Equally Illustrious by Kindred and Spirit,
A Lover of Equity,
A Defender of the Laws,
Founder of Stoughton Hall,
A most Distinguished Patron of Letters and Literary Men,
A most strenuous Opponent of Impiety and Vice.
Rhetoricians delight in Him as Eloquent,
Writers are acquainted with Him as Elegant,
Philosophers seek Him as Wise,
Doctors honor Him as a Theologian,
The Devout revere Him as Grave,
All admire Him; unknown by All
Yet known to All.
What need of more, Traveller? Whom have we lost—
STOUGHTON!
Alas!
I have said sufficient, Tears press,
I keep silence.

He lived Seventy Years;
On the Seventh of July, in the Year of Safety 1701
He Died.
Alas! Alas! What Grief!

NOTE J.

"At a Town Meeting the 9th (12th) 1668. The same day Nicholas Bolton did agree to tend ye meeting-house to keep it in decent order and to *ring ye Bell* ye yeer insewing; for which he is to have £3, of which 10s of it in money if it can be gott, or otherwise to have 3d upon ye shilling for that 10s. Jno. Capen and Samuell Clap made the agreement with him, being thereunto appointed by ye Selectmen at their meeting ye day before."

T. R., Vol. I. p. 202.

"At a Meeting of the Selectmen the 12 March, 1687–8. Sergt. Leadbetter was ordered to speak to Isaac Riall to make a way up to the Bell."

T. R., Vol. I. p. 441.

"At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester on ye fifth day of March, Anno Domini 1732, Legally Warned;

"*Voted*, That there be allowed & Paid out of the Town Treasury the sum of Three Pounds Ten Shillings, towards ye Ringing of ye Bell on the evenings at nine of the clock ye Year Ensuing."

T. R., Vol. II. p. 343.

NOTE K.

As an accompaniment to the list of Town Clerks of Dorchester from 1630 to the death of Mr. Blake, as given in the Index, the following catalogue of his successors is added, with the year of their election.

March 13, 1748, N. Clap.
March 6, 1786, Saml. Coolidge.
March 2, 1789, N. Clap.

March 4, 1799, Ebenezer Tolman.
April 7, 1806, Edw. W. Baxter, *pro tem.*
May 26, 1806, Ebenezer Tolman.
March 7, 1814, James Everett.
March 4, 1816, Ebenezer Tolman.
March 7, 1826, Thomas J. Tolman.

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*On "20th, 3d mo., 1644," a tax of £100 was assessed by Town Order, for Fortifications on Calf Island, and for ammunition for the same.—*Town Records, Vol. I. p.* 61.

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* "18 10mo. 1642. Every person offending against this order shall forfeit for the same six pence for every such offence, to be levied by distress for the use of the Town."—*Town Records, Vol. I. p.* 54.

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